# Exhibit 1

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### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

VAHAN KELERCHIAN :

Plaintiff : Civil Action No. 2:20-cy-00253-WB

v.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO,

**FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES,** an agency : Complaint – Violations of the of the Department of Justice : First and Fifth Amendments,

: and the APA

STEVEN DETTELBACH, Director :

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives<sup>1</sup>:

**MERRICK GARLAND,** Attorney General of the United States<sup>2</sup>

:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

:

**Defendants** 

<sup>1</sup> When this action was commenced, the Acting Director was Regina Lombardo. Thereafter, on June 4, 2021, as a result of the Vacancies Act, Marvin Richardson became the ATF Acting Director. More recently on July 13, 2022, Steven Dettelbach was confirmed as the Director. *See*, <a href="https://www.atf.gov/about-atf/executive-staff">https://www.atf.gov/about-atf/executive-staff</a>. As such, he is substituted as the current director. <sup>2</sup> When this action was commenced, the Attorney General was William Barr. Thereafter, on March 11, 2021, Attorney General Merrick Garland was sworn in to Office. As such, he is substituted as the current Attorney General. *See*, <a href="https://www.justice.gov/ag/staff-profile/meet-attorney-general">https://www.justice.gov/ag/staff-profile/meet-attorney-general</a>

### FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, Plaintiff Vahan Kelerchian, by and through his attorneys, Joshua Prince, Esq., and Dillon Harris of Prince Law Offices, P.C., and complain of Defendants as follows:

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. This is an action challenging the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' ("ATF") implementation and enforcement of an unwritten policy that is contrary to the statutory language found in 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and its own promulgated regulations found in 27 C.F.R. § 478.144(i).
- 2. Specifically, ATF has taken the position, and acted consistent with that position, that where a licensed dealer, incurs disabilities under the Gun Control Act ("GCA"), 18

  U.S.C. § 921, et seq., and timely makes and files an application for relief from those disabilities, ATF may ignore it and invalidate, void, and/or revoke the license, even though the Congress explicitly declared that a "licensed dealer ... conducting operations under this chapter, who makes application for relief from the disabilities incurred under this chapter, shall not be barred by such disability from further operations under his license pending final action on an application for relief filed pursuant to this section." 18

  U.S.C. § 925(c).
- 3. Furthermore, ATF's own promulgated regulation declares that where the licensed dealer timely files an application for relief, "the licensee may further continue licensed operations during the pendency of the application" and that "[i]n the event the term of a license of a person expires ... during the pendency of the application for relief, a timely application for renewal of the license must be filed in order to continue licensed operations." 27 C.F.R. § 478.144(i).

- 4. In absolute and direct defiance of the Congress' mandate and ATF's own regulation, and regardless of the fact that Mr. Kelerchian has made and filed an application for relief of disabilities, based on an "internal policy," ATF voided, invalidated and/or otherwise revoked his license, denied him any pre- or post-deprivation hearing, and further contended that fourteen (14) certain National Firearms Act ("NFA") firearms held pursuant to the license were contraband and subject to forfeiture if he did not immediately relinquish them, all in the absence of a determination on his application for relief, simply because the U.S. Supreme Court denied his petition for certiorari.
- 5. Accordingly, the declaratory, preliminary and permanent injunctive, and other relief requested herein is necessary to prevent further enforcement of ATF's defiant policy that seeks to eviscerate the rights established by the Congress for individuals like Plaintiff and to restore Plaintiff's license.

### **PARTIES**

- 6. Plaintiff Vahan Kelerchian ("Kelerchian") is a natural person, whose Federal Firearms
  License ("FFL"), no. 8-23-017-01-5A-02276, was based out of a premise in Warminster,
  Pennsylvania, and who lives in Richboro, Pennsylvania.
- 7. Defendant ATF is the federal government agency responsible for enforcing the statutory laws and promulgating and enforcing regulations under the GCA and the National Firearms Act, 26 U.S.C. 5801, *et seq*.
- 8. Defendant Steven Dettelbach ("ATF Director" or "Dettelbach") is the Director of the Bureau of ATF, and he is sued in that official capacity. ATF is responsible for, *inter alia*, regulating and licensing the sale, possession, transfer, and transportation of firearms and ammunition in interstate commerce, and conducting federal firearm relief determinations,

- pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(c). As Director of ATF, Defendant Dettelbach is responsible for the creation, implementation, execution, and administration of the laws, regulations, customs, practices, and policies of the ATF and the United States as they relate to the GCA and NFA, including implementation and enforcement of the policy complained of herein.
- 9. Defendant Merrick Garland ("Attorney General" or "Garland") is the Attorney General of the United States, and he is sued in that official capacity. As Attorney General, Defendant Garland is responsible for executing and administering the laws, regulations, customs, practices, and policies of the United States including the implementation and enforcement of the policy complained of herein. As Attorney General, Defendant Garland is ultimately responsible for supervising the functions and actions of the United States Department of Justice, including the ATF, which is an arm of the Department of Justice.
- 10. Defendant United States of America ("United States") is a proper party in this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §§ 702, 703.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 11. This case concerns certain subject matter under the original and exclusive jurisdiction of the federal courts of the United States of America.
- 12. This action seeks relief pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, 702, 703, 704; and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343, 1346, 2201, 2202, and 2412. Therefore, jurisdiction is founded on 5 U.S.C. §§ 702 and 704 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 2201-2202, as this action arises under the Administrative Procedure Act and the Declaratory Judgment Act, as well as the Constitution and laws of the United States.

- 13. This Court has authority to award costs and attorney fees pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E)(i), and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1920, 2412.
- 14. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 703 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(2),(e)(1)(B), as a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS**

- 15. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution provides, in the pertinent part: "The right of the people...to petition the Government for redress of grievances."
- 16. The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides, in the pertinent part: "No person shall be ... deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of the law."

### STATUTORY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- 17. The Gun Control Act ("GCA"), 18 U.S.C. § 921, *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations, 27 C.F.R. § 478.1, *et seq.*, are part of the Crimes Code and have both criminal and civil penalties associated with violations thereof.
- 18. 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) provides, in pertinent part:
  - A ... licensed dealer ... conducting operations under this chapter, who makes application for relief from the disabilities incurred under this chapter, shall not be barred by such disability from further operations under his license pending final action on an application for relief filed pursuant to this section. (emphasis added).
- 19. 27 C.F.R. § 478.144(i)(1) provides, in pertinent part:

A licensee who incurs disabilities under the Act (see § 478.32(a)) during the term of a current license or while the licensee has pending a license renewal application, and who files an application for removal of such disabilities, shall not be barred from licensed operations for 30 days following the date on which the applicant was first subject to such disabilities (or 30 days after the date upon which the conviction for a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term

exceeding 1 year becomes final), and if the licensee files the application for relief as provided by this section within such 30–day period, the licensee may further continue licensed operations during the pendency of the application. (emphasis added).

20. 27 C.F.R. § 478.144(i)(2) goes on to provide, in pertinent part

In the event the term of a license of a person expires ... during the pendency of the application for relief, a timely application for renewal of the license must be *filed in order to continue licensed operations*.

21. The Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201, provides, in the pertinent part:

In a case of actual controversy within its jurisdiction...as determined by the administering authority, any court of the United States, upon the filing of an appropriate pleading, may declare the rights and other legal relations of any interested party seeking such declaration, whether or not further relief is or could be sought. Any such declaration shall have the force and effect of a final judgment or decree and shall be reviewable as such.

22. 28 U.S.C. § 2202 provides:

Further necessary or proper relief based on a declaratory judgment or decree may be granted, after reasonable notice and hearing, against any adverse party whose rights have been determined by such judgment.

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Facts Relative to Mr. Kelerchian's Licensing

- 23. In or about January of 2006, Mr. Kelerchian obtained an FFL, as a dealer, with a last known number of 8-23-017-01-5A-02276.
- 24. Mr. Kelerchian's FFL no. 8-23-017-01-5A-02276 had been timely renewed, every three years, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 923 and 27 C.F.R.§ § 478.45, 478.49.
- 25. Although Mr. Kelerchian timely submitted a renewal of his dealer license in December of 2014 and again on or about December 21, 2017, in direct defiance of 18 U.S.C. § 923(d)(2) and 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.47(c), (d) which require a determination approving or denying the license within 60 days Defendants failed to issue determinations on the

- renewal applications and instead issued numerous "letters of authorization", referred to by Defendants as "LOAs", purporting to extend his license for limited periods of time.
- 26. Defendants' most recent LOA purported to authorize Mr. Kelerchian to continue business until July 7, 2020, even though, his most recent renewal application of on or about December 21, 2017, if approved, would have authorized him to continue business through on or about January 1, 2021.
- 27. Neither the GCA nor its implementing regulations mention "letters of authorization" or "LOAs."
- As of July 1, 2020, ATF took the position that Mr. Kelerchian's license was "void" due to the Supreme Court's denial of his petition for certiorari in his criminal matter and provided that all fourteen (14) post-sample machineguns were transferred by July 1, 2020, "there would be no violation of the law;" however, if Mr. Kelerchian failed to transfer these firearms by July 1, 2020, it was Defendants' position that he could be prosecuted for unlawful possession of these firearms, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922(o) and 27 C.F.R. § 478.36, which, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(2), could result in penalties of incarceration of up to ten years in jail and fines, per violation.
- 29. On July 1, 2020, the Defendants updated the FFL eZCheck system https://fflezcheck.atf.gov/fflezcheck/ - to reflect that Mr. Kelerchian's FFL was no longer valid. A screenshot of ATF's FFL eZCheck system reflecting Mr. Kelerchian's FFL is no longer valid is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A.
- 30. In further support that ATF invalidated, voided, and revoked Mr. Kelerchian's license, the undersigned received an email from counsel for the Defendants on August 27, 2020, which stated that "ATF considers Mr. Kelerchian's discontinuance of his firearms

business to be absolute at this time," and directing the business's records – required to be kept under the GCA and its regulations – to be submitted to the ATF's Out of Business Records Center and that his failure to comply is a "crime punishable as a felony, imprisonment for not more than 5 years and/or fine of not more than \$250,000." A copy of the August 27, 2020 email and the ATF's Out of Business Records Request is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit B.

- 31. On July 14, 2021, after the Third Circuit Court of Appeals issued its decision in this matter, the undersigned, on behalf of Mr. Kelerchian, reached out to counsel for the Defendants "formally requesting (1) re-issuance/activation of his FFL that ATF, over his objection, has listed as invalid and discontinued; (2) return of his acquisition and disposition records that ATF forced him to turn in to the out-of-business center under threat of charging if he failed to do so; and (3) approval of transfers back to his FFL of all previously transferred firearms that ATF forced him to transfer under threat of charging if he failed to do so."
- 32. On August 2, 2021, counsel for Defendants directed the undersigned to communicate directly with ATF regarding this request.
- 33. After doing so, the undersigned was informed by ATF Philadelphia Division Counsel Kevin White that the "three requests were denied." A copy of ATF Philadelphia Division Counsel Kevin White's response is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit C.

#### Facts Relative to Mr. Kelerchian's Chargings

34. On May 17, 2013, Mr. Kelerchian was charged in a nine (9) count Indictment, primarily related to the putative transfer of machineguns and laser-aiming devices, in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana, docket no. 2:13-cr-00066.

- 35. On or about October 15, 2015, the jury found Mr. Kelerchian guilty of some, but not all, charges.
- 36. After several motions, on February 5, 2018, Mr. Kelerchian was sentenced.
- 37. Mr. Kelerchian appealed his conviction and the filed a petition for certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 38. On June 1, 2020, the United States Supreme Court denied Mr. Kelerchian's petition for certiorari.

### Facts Relative to Mr Kelerchian's Application for Relief

- 39. As a result of the Mr. Kelerchian's sentencing on February 5, 2018, within the 30 days as mandated by 27 C.F.R. § 478.144(i)(1), on March 2, 2018, the undersigned submitted one (1) day Priority Mail letters to then-ATF Acting Director Thomas Brandon, Philadelphia Director of Industry Operations Juan Orellana, and ATF's NCETR division with three copies of Mr. Kelerchian's Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. § 478.144, and requisite documentation. A copy of the letters to each entity and enclosed documents is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit D.
- 40. As set-forth in the letter, 27 C.F.R. § 478.11 requires three copies of the application to be filed with the Director, but the application instructions only require one copy to be filed with NCETR; thus, as a matter of precaution, the undersigned submitted three copies of the executed Applications with the applicable documents (as contained in Exhibit D) to each: then-ATF Acting Director Thomas Brandon, Philadelphia Director of Industry Operations Juan Orellana, and ATF's NCETR division. *Id*.

- 41. As further set-forth in the letter, the undersigned declared that "[p]ursuant to Sections 925(c) and 478.144(i), as Mr. Kelerchian is an FFL holder, who has continually and timely renewed his FFL, he shall not be 'barred by such disability from further operations under his license pending final action on an application for relief filed pursuant to this section." *Id*.
- 42. The mailing to then-ATF Acting Director Brandon was received on March 7, 2018. A copy of the mailing certificates is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit E.
- 43. The mailing to Philadelphia Director of Industry Operations Orellana was received on March 6, 2018. A copy of the mailing certificates is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit F.
- 44. The mailing to ATF NCETR division was received on March 6, 2018. A copy of the mailing certificates is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit G.
- 45. On April 3, 2018, the undersigned received a response dated March 27, 2018, from John R. Day, Chief, Explosives Enforcement and Training Division, acknowledging receipt of Mr. Kelerchian's Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges, but stating that since ATF cannot, currently, act on applications for relief, the application was being returned to the undersigned. A copy of ATF's March 27, 2018 letter is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit H.
- 46. On April 9, 2018, the undersigned responded by explaining that as the statutory and regulatory law only requires that an FFL "make" and "file" an application for relief, ATF is required to retain the application and process it, when, if ever, the Congress appropriates money for ATF to conduct federal firearms relief determinations, and resubmitted Mr. Kelerchian's Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges with the

- applicable documents (as contained in Exhibit D). A copy of the letter is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit I.
- 47. The undersigned's April 9, 2018 letter with Mr. Kelerchian's Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges and the applicable documents (as contained in Exhibit D) was received by ATF Chief John Day on April 12, 2018. A copy of the certified return receipt reflecting receipt of the April 9, 2019 letter and enclosures is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit J.
- 48. Neither Chief John Day nor anyone else acting as an employee or agent of the Defendants has sent any further correspondences regarding Mr. Kelerchian's Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges.
- Neither then Acting Director Brandon, Director Orellana, nor NCETR returned Mr.
   Kelerchian's Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges.
- 50. Mr. Kelerchian's timely and properly filed Application for Restoration of Firearms

  Privileges is currently in the possession of Defendants.
- 51. Defendants do not dispute that Mr. Kelerchian timely and properly filed his Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges and that it is currently in their possession.
- Nor could the Defendants, as the Third Circuit Court of Appeals found that "[o]n March 2, 2018—within 30 days of his sentencing—Kelerchian mailed an 'Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges' to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)" and "ATF did not return the application again or send any other correspondence regarding the application." *Kelerchian v. ATF*, 2021 WL 2910934, at \*1 (3d Cir. July 12, 2021)

53. Furthermore, the Third Circuit declared "ATF's practice of mailing back individuals' applications as unprocessed arguably requires ATF to recognize that an individual has filed an application for relief." *Id.* at \*3, Fn. 5.

Facts Relative to Defendants' Refusal to Acknowledge Mr. Kelerchian's Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges

- On November 27, 2019, ATF Philadelphia Division Counsel Kevin White inquired as to whether Mr. Kelerchian had filed an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court in relation to his criminal chargings, as ATF is taking the position, pursuant to an internal policy (hereinafter "internal policy"), that although Mr. Kelerchian timely complied with 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. 478.144 by making and filing the application for relief with ATF, since ATF cannot adjudicate the application that it could immediately revoke his license if the U.S. Supreme Court denied certiorari in direct defiance of the enacted statutory and regulatory text.
- This "internal policy", although a final agency action, has not been published anywhere, including, but not limited to, in the Federal Register, and it is unknown whether it exists in written form.
- 56. This "internal policy" is the basis for Defendants' invalidation, voiding, and/or revoking of Mr. Kelerchian's FFL.
- 57. The Defendants' invalidation, voiding, and/or revoking of Mr. Kelerchian's FFL is a final agency action, as additionally supported by ATF's threats of criminal prosecution against Mr. Kelerchian if he did not (1) transfer his post-sample machineguns by July 1, 2020 and (2) turn in all of his business records to the ATF Out of Business Center by September 18, 2020, because if Mr. Kelerchian's FFL remained valid and intact, his

continued possession of his firearms and business records would continue to be lawful and there would be no basis under the law for criminal prosecution related thereto.

# COUNT I: DECLARATORY RELIEF PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202

- 58. The foregoing paragraphs are hereby incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
- 59. 28 U.S.C. § 2201 provides "In a case of actual controversy within its jurisdiction ... any court of the United States, upon the filing of an appropriate pleading, may declare the rights and other legal relations of any interested party seeking such declaration, whether or not further relief is or could be sought."
- 60. 28 U.S.C. § 2202 provides "Further necessary or proper relief based on a declaratory judgment or decree may be granted, after reasonable notice and hearing, against any adverse party whose rights have been determined by such judgment."
- Pursuant to the Declaratory Judgement Act, Mr. Kelerchian seeks a declaration of his rights from this Court, including, but not limited to a declaration that he complied with 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. § 478.144 and thus may continue to operate under the previously issued license, a declaration that Defendants' actions constitute a final agency action, and a declaration that Defendants have violated his First and Fifth Amendment rights.
- 62. Additionally, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2202, Mr. Kelerchian seeks an order from this Court returning his previously issued license to him, an injunction preventing Defendants from invalidating, voiding, and/or revoking his license based on their purported inability to process his Application for Restoration of Firearm Privileges, and attorneys fees and costs.

- 63. There is no dispute that Mr. Kelerchian timely filed his Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. § 478.144, and requisite documentation. *See*, *Kelerchian v. ATF*, 2021 WL 2910934, at \*1.
- 64. The Third Circuit recognized that "ATF's practice of mailing back individuals' applications as unprocessed arguably requires ATF to recognize that an individual has filed an application for relief." *Id.* at \*3, Fn. 5.
- 65. As a result, pursuant to Section 925(c), Mr. Kelerchian "shall not be barred by such disability from further operations under his license pending final action on an application for relief filed pursuant to this section."
- 66. Furthermore, pursuant to ATF's own promulgated regulation 27 C.F.R. § 478.144(i) Mr. Kelerchian "shall not be barred from licensed operations ... [and] may further continue licensed operations during the pendency of the application."
- 67. Although Mr. Kelerchian has timely made and filed his application for relief with ATF (*Id.* at \*1), in direct defiance of the Congressional mandate in Section 925(c), and ATF's own promulgated regulation in 478.144(i), Defendants contend they can, and have since, invalidated, voided, and/or revoked his license despite Mr. Kelerchian's statutory and regulatory compliance.
- 68. Specifically, Defendants contend pursuant to ATF's "internal policy" that even if a FFL licensee timely complies with 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. § 478.144 by making and filing the application for relief with ATF, since ATF cannot adjudicate the application, ATF can immediately invalidate, void, and/or revoke the license upon a final determination on the criminal charges and thereafter threaten criminal prosecution if the

- licensee does not immediately (1) transfer certain firearms held pursuant to the license and (2) turn in the licensee's business record to the ATF Out of Business Center..
- 69. Moreover, while Congress has passed an appropriations bill that bans ATF's ability to investigate or act upon applications for relief from federal firearms disabilities, the Third Circuit declared "ATF provides no support for a reading of 'investigate or act upon' that includes the mere recognition of the fact that an application for relief has been filed or the legal effect of such a filing." *Id.* at \*3
- 70. Wherefore Mr. Kelerchian is entitled to, *inter alia*, preliminary and permanent injunctive, and declaratory relief, in addition to attorney fees and costs.

# COUNT II: ATF'S INVALIDATION, VOIDING, AND/OR REVOCATION OF MR. KELERCHIAN'S LICENSE CONSTITUTES A FINAL AGENCY ACTION PURSUANT TO 5 U.S.C. § 704

- 71. The foregoing paragraphs are hereby incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
- 72. An agency action is considered final under 5 U.S.C. § 704 when the action "marks the 'consummation' of the agency's decision making process" and the action is "one by which 'rights or obligations have been determined,' or from which 'legal consequences will flow." *Bennett v. Spear*, 520 U.S. 154, 177 (1997) (internal citations omitted).
- 73. Congress has clearly declared that if a "licensed dealer ... makes application for relief from the disabilities...[he] shall not be barred by such disability from further operations under his license pending final action on an application for relief filed pursuant to this section."
- 74. Despite the timely filing of his Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. § 478.144, along with the requisite documentation (Exhibit D), ATF not only has failed to acknowledge an application was

- filed, but instead invalidated, voided, and/or revoked Mr. Kelerchian's license, in direct contravention to the statutory text.
- 75. ATF's invalidation, voiding, and revocation of Mr. Kelerchian's license can only be interpreted as the "consummation" of the agency's decision-making process and as a result of that invalidation, voiding, and/or revocation, have implicated Mr. Kelerchian's rights and created legal consequences that flow from his inability to maintain a license.
- 76. The Defendants' invalidation, voiding, and/or revoking of Mr. Kelerchian's FFL is a final agency action, as additionally supported by ATF's threats of criminal prosecution against Mr. Kelerchian if he did not (1) transfer his post-sample machineguns by July 1, 2020 and (2) turn in all of his business records to the ATF Out of Business Center by September 18, 2020, because if Mr. Kelerchian's FFL remained valid and intact, his continued possession of his firearms and business records would continue to be lawful and there would be no basis under the law for criminal prosecution related thereto
- 77. Accordingly, ATF's revocation of Mr. Kelerchian's FFL must be deemed a "final agency action," and as such, Mr. Kelerchian is entitled to this Court's review of the agency's action as well as preliminary and permanent injunctive, declaratory relief, and attorney fees and costs.

## COUNT III: DEFENDANTS VIOLATED MR. KELERCHIAN'S RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS PURSUANT TO THE FIFTH AMENDMENT

- 78. The foregoing paragraphs are hereby incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
- 79. The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides, in part, "No person shall be ... deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of the law." U.S. Const. amend. V.

- Mr. Kelerchian has a liberty interest in being free from prosecution and further incarceration from Defendant's improper and unsupportable positions, specifically, Defendant's decision to invalidate, void, and/or revoke his license and their subsequent threats of prosecution for failure to transfer certain firearms out of his possession and ownership and turn in business records despite Mr. Kelerchian's compliance with 18 U.S.C. § 925(c). See Exhibit K ("As long as the applicable transfer forms for these machineguns are submitted to ATF by July 1, 2020, there would be no violation of the law"); Exhibit B ("WILLFULL FAILURE TO TURN IN YOUR OUT-OF-BUSINESS RECORDS TO ATF...IS A CRIME PUNISHABLE AS A FELONY, IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 5 YEARS AND/OR A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$250,000.") (emphasis original).
- 81. Furthermore, Mr. Kelerchian maintains a property interest in his issued license, firearms and his business records, for which he was given no hearing or other form of due process prior to the invalidation, voiding, and/or revocation of his license by Defendants and subsequent forced dispossession of certain of his firearms and all of his business records under threat of prosecution, incarceration, and/or fines, despite being legally required to maintain them and retain possession of them on the business premises. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 923(g)(1)(A) ("Each [licensee] shall maintain such records of…receipt, sale, or other disposition of firearms at his place of business…") and 27 C.F.R. § 478.121(a) ("The records pertaining to firearms transactions prescribed by this part shall be retained on the licensed premises…").
- 82. In an email to the undersigned, Defendants stated that 30 days after the denial of certiorari they would "void" Mr. Kelerchian's issued license (*see* Exhibit K) and on July

- 1, 2020, ATF updated the FFL eZCheck system (*see* Exhibit A) to reflect that Mr. Kelerchian's FFL was "invalid".
- 83. Notably, nothing in the GCA allows for the ATF to "void" or invalidate a licensed. 18 U.S.C. § 923 (stating procedures for *denial* or *revocation* of a license).
- 84. Specifically, 18 U.S.C. § 923(f)(1) provides "Any person whose application for a license is denied and any holder of a license which is revoked shall receive a written notice from the Attorney General stating specifically the grounds upon which the application was denied or upon which the license was revoked."
- 85. Furthermore, Section 923(f)(2) requires the Attorney General to "promptly" hold a hearing to review the denial or revocation upon request by the aggrieved party.
- 86. The United States Supreme Court, in the context of the suspension of a horse trainer's license, found a New York statute to violate the individual's right to due process, as it did not provide a timeframe for which a post-deprivation hearing would occur. *Barry v. Barchi*, 443 U.S. 55, 61 (1979).
- While the Court did find a right to suspend the license without a pre-suspension hearing, the Court held "[I]t was necessary that Barchi be assured a prompt postsuspension hearing, one that would proceed and be concluded without appreciable delay. Because the statute as applied in this case was deficient in this respect, Barchi's suspension was constitutionally infirm under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment."

  Barchi, 443 U.S. at 66.
- 88. In the instant matter, not only was Mr. Kelerchian not provided a pre-deprivation hearing, but he was also not offered any form of post deprivation hearing, let alone "written notice"

- from the Attorney General," in direct violation of 18 U.S.C. § 923(d) and in violation of his right to due process under the Fifth Amendment.
- 89. Accordingly, ATF's violations of the Fifth Amendment result in Mr. Kelerchian being entitled to, *inter alia*, preliminary and permanent injunctive, and declaratory relief, in addition to attorney fees and costs.

# COUNT IV: RIGHT TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES PURSUANT TO THE FIRST AMENDMENT

- 90. The foregoing paragraphs are hereby incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
- 91. Article III, Section 2 of the United States Constitution states, in part, "The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States..."
- 92. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution provides, in part, "The right of the people...to petition the Government for redress of grievances." U.S. Const. amend. I.
- 93. The right to petition extends to all departments of the Government including "administrative agencies," *California Motor Trans. Co., v. Trucking Unlimited*, 404 U.S. 508, 510 (1972), and encompasses formal and informal complaints, *McDonald v. Smith*, 472 U.S. 479, 484 (1985), about matters of public and private concern.
- 94. "[T]he right of access to courts for redress of wrongs is an aspect of the First

  Amendment right to petition the government." *Borough of Duryea, Pa. v. Guarnieri*, 564

  U.S. 379, 387 (2011) (citation and quotation marks omitted).
- 95. Despite the timely filing of his Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. § 478.144, along with the requisite documentation (Exhibit D), ATF has failed to take any action on the petition and claims

- one was never filed, denying Mr. Kelerchian his First Amendment right to petition the government for redress of grievances.
- While an appropriations ban for the processing of federal firearms relief determinations does exist, its existence does not inherently equate to constitutionality, particularly if it denies an individual the right to petition the government for grievances in violation of their First Amendment rights, nor does it alter the plain language of the statute which only requires that a licensee make application for relief in order to not be barred from operation under 18 U.S.C. § 923.
- 97. Had Congress, hypothetically, chosen to defund a permitting process in National Parks that allowed people to protest or otherwise hold events, such that the process itself existed, but the National Parks had no manner in which they could process permits since funds were not appropriated for that purpose, the Courts would strike down such an affront to the First Amendment.
- 98. Article III, Section 2 of the United States Constitution vests this Court with the power to hear all cases arising under the laws of the United States, which would include 18 U.S.C. § 925(c).
- 99. In the event, *arguendo*, ATF's position that it cannot act on Mr. Kelerchian's application for relief from federal firearms disabilities be accepted, this Court still has the power to hear Mr. Kelerchian's complaint and in fact, must do so. *Cf. Arizona v. California*, 140 S. Ct. 684, 684 (2020) (Thomas, J. dissenting) (discussing discretion to decline review of cases.) and *Texas v. Pennsylvania*, *et al.*, 141 S. Ct. 1230 (2020).

- 100. For each day that has passed, there has been a final agency action and a continuous ongoing injury that has occurred, further solidifying this Courts ability to hear Mr. Kelerchian's complaint.
- 101. Accordingly, ATF's violations of the First Amendment result in Mr. Kelerchian being entitled to, *inter alia*, preliminary and permanent injunctive, and declaratory relief, in addition to attorney fees and costs.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

**WHEREFORE**, Mr. Kelerchian respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter judgment in his favor and against Defendants, as follows:

- a) Preliminarily and permanently enjoin Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees and all persons in active concert or participation with them from enforcing their "internal policy" that even if a FFL licensee timely complies with 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. 478.144 by making and filing the application for relief with ATF, since ATF cannot adjudicate the application, that ATF can immediately invalidate, void, and/or revoke the license upon a final determination on the criminal charges;
- b) Declare that Mr. Kelerchian timely complied with 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. 478.144 by making and filing the application for relief with ATF and was and continues to be entitled to continue operation under that license until such time ATF had taken a final action on his application for relief;
- c) Declare that Defendants are prohibited from implementing and enforcing their "internal policy" as it violates 18 U.S.C. § 925(c), 27 C.F.R. § 478.144, and their statutory authority.

- d) Declare that Defendants act of invalidating, voiding, and/or revoking Mr. Kerlerchian's license constitutes a final agency action under the Administrative Procedures Act;
- Order Defendants reinstate Mr. Kelerchian's prior federal firearms license: e)
- f) Declare that Defendants violated Mr. Kelerchian's Fifth Amendment right to due process;
- Declare that Defendants violated Mr. Kelerchian's First Amendment right to petition the g) government for grievances;
- h) Permanently enjoin Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees and all persons in active concert or participation with them from enforcing their "internal policy" that even if a FFL licensee timely complies with 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. 478.144 by making and filing the application for relief with ATF, that ATF can immediately invalidate, void, and/or revoke the license upon a final determination on the criminal charges;
- i) Award Plaintiff costs and attorney fees and expenses to the extent permitted under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E)(i), 18 U.S.C. § 924, and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1920, 2202, and 2412; and
- Grant any and all other equitable and/or legal remedies this Court may see fit. j)

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua@PrinceLaw.com

Dillon Harris, Esq. DHarris@PrinceLaw.com

Prince Law Offices, P.C. 646 Lenape Road Bechtelsville, PA 19505

(888) 313-0416 (t) (610) 845-3903 (f)

Attorneys for Plaintiff

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

VAHAN KELERCHIAN :

:

Plaintiff : Civil Action No. 2:20-cv-00253-WB

:

v.

:

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND

:

EXPLOSIVES, et al.

:

**Defendants**:

### **Exhibit List to Complaint**

Exhibit A: ATF's FFL EzCheck Screenshot

Exhibit B: August 27, 2020 email and ATF's Out of Business Records Request

Exhibit C: August 18, 2020 email from ATF Philadelphia Division Counsel Kevin

White

**Exhibit D**: March 2, 2018 letter enclosing Mr. Kelerchian's Application for

Restoration of Firearms Privileges, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and

27 C.F.R. § 478.144, and requisite documentation.

**Exhibit E**: Mailing certificate to then-ATF Acting Director Thomas Brandon

**Exhibit F**: Mailing certificate to Philadelphia Director of Operations Orellana

**Exhibit G**: Mailing certificate to ATF NCETR

Exhibit H: March 27, 2018 letter from ATF re: Mr. Kelerchian's Application for

Restoration of Firearms Privileges

**Exhibit I**: April 9, 2018 letter in response to ATF's March 27, 2018 letter

**Exhibit J**: Mailing certificate to ATF Chief John Day

Exhibit K: June 15, 2020 email from AUSA Lauren DeBruicker

# Exhibit A





FFL Search
FFL Download

#### **Federal Firearms License Results**

You Entered FFL Number: 8-23-XXX-XX-XX-02276

If you are certain you entered the correct license number, there is a strong possibility that the FFL you are attempting to verify is invalid and/or this may be an attempt at a fraudulent transaction.

You should not complete the transaction without first contacting ATF at 1-877-560-2435 for assistance.

If you only have general questions concerning this web site, or the information displayed above, please contact ATF using the Problem Report link provided at the end of this page.

Select Problem Report to Report errors to ATF.



If you have difficulty accessing any information in the site due to a disability, please contact us via email (webmaster@atf.gov) and we will do our best to make the information available to you.

This site is best viewed at 1024 x 768 screen resolution or higher using Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher.

ATTENTION: Users may experience compatibility problems when attempting to view PDF files using Internet Explorer browser version 5 and above and Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0. If problems occur, consider the following options: Right-click on PDF link and save to local drive; Use an earlier version of Adobe Acrobat Reader; Use an earlier version of Internet Explorer; or convert PDF to text using ATF's PDF Conversion Engine.

WARNING! This computer system is the property of the United States Department of Justice. The Department may monitor any activity on the system and search and retrieve any information stored within the system. By accessing and using this computer, you are consenting to such monitoring and information retrieval for law enforcement and other purposes. Users should have no expectation of privacy as to any communication on or information stored within the system, including information stored on the network and stored locally on the hard drive or other media in use with this unit (e.g., floppy drives, CD-ROMS, etc.).

Exhibit B

From: DeBruicker, Lauren (USAPAE) Lauren.DeBruicker@usdoj.gov

Subject: RE: Kelerchian Out of Business Record Request

Date: August 27, 2020 at 1:51 PM

To: Joshua Prince joshua@princelaw.com



#### Dear Joshua,

Thank you for your patience on this. As I expect you are quite familiar with, 27 C.F.R. § 478.127 provides that where discontinuance of a firearms business is absolute, the business's records required by the Gun Control Act must be provided to ATF. In light of his criminal conviction becoming final, as well as the recent decision of the U.S. District Court, ATF considers Mr. Kelerchian's discontinuance of his firearms business to be absolute at this time. While the government recognizes that Mr. Kelerchian may appeal the U.S. District Court's decision, the records must nonetheless be provided to ATF now, as ATF may need to access the records in question to conduct the vital work of firearms tracing while any such appeal is pending.

However, just as with the out of business letter a few months ago, I would think it possible for Mr. Kelerchian to submit the records to ATF with a cover letter (and perhaps a note in the comments section of the form ATF provided) noting the pending litigation, the claims he is asserting therein, and – if the outcome following all appeals is favorable to him – he will request that the records be returned to him. I also understand there is nothing preventing Mr. Kelerchian from keeping a copy of the records for future reference.

I am available to discuss further if that would be helpful.

Many thanks,

#### Lauren

Lauren DeBruicker 215.861.8492 | Lauren.DeBruicker@usdoj.gov

From: Joshua Prince < joshua@princelaw.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 12:37 PM

To: DeBruicker, Lauren (USAPAE) < LDeBruicker@usa.doj.gov >

Subject: Kelerchian Out of Business Record Request

Good Afternoon Lauren,

I wanted to reach out, as my client just received the attached letter; however, no final determination has been rendered in the case, as there are 60 days from the denial of reconsideration of August 12, 2019 to appeal to the Third Circuit. As such, I just wanted to confirm with you that there is no dispute that my client may remain in possession of all records until a determination becomes final. Please let me know at your earliest convenience. Hope all is well

Joshua

Inchua Prince Foa

Prince Law Offices, P.C. 646 Lenape Rd Bechtelsville, PA 19505 888-313-0416 ext 81114 610-845-3903 (fax) Joshua@PrinceLaw.com

The highest compliment we can receive is the referral of your friends, family and business associates. Thank you for your trust

### \*\*\*\*Email Confidentiality Note\*\*\*\*

The information contained in this electronic message may contain attorney-client privileged and confidential information only for use of the owner of the email address listed as the recipient of this message. Further, this e-mail may contain information that is proprietary and/or constitutes a trade secret. This e-mail, including attachments, constitutes non-public information intended to be conveyed only to the designated recipient of this communication, please be advised that any disclosure, dissemination, distribution, copying, or use of this communication or any attached document is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately destroy the same and notify the sender by return email and by telephone at 888-313-0416.

#### Licensee:

Our records indicate that your licensed firearms business has been discontinued. Please read the information below before completing the form on reverse.

Was your firearms business permanently discontinued? If your firearms business was permanently discontinued, the Gun Control Act and its implementing regulations require that your firearms records be sent within 30 days to the ATF Out-of-Business Records Center, 244 Needy Road, Martinsburg, WV 25405, or to any ATF office in the division in which the business was located. Licensed Collectors of Curios and Relics (Type 03) are NOT required to turn in their records.

Did you maintain computerized records?

If you maintained your firearms records in an electronic database pursuant to ATF Ruling 2016-1 (or a predecessor ruling), or an ATF approved variance, you must provide that data with column headings in an ASCII text file such as a CSV (comma separated value) file or other delimited file (tab delimited, pipe delimited, etc...) including a file description. If this option is unavailable, the computerized database must be printed and sent to the Out-of-Business Records Center, or to any ATF office in the division in which the business was located with ALL of your federally required records. The ASCII text file and print-out (if applicable) must contain the information perscribed in Subpart H of Title 27 CFR Part 478.

Was your firearms business succeeded by a new licensee? If your firearms business was succeeded by a new licensee, the records required by 27 CFR 478.121-134 shall appropriately reflect such facts and shall be delivered to the successor. Please note, however, the records may instead be delivered within 30 days following the business discontinuance to the ATF Out-of-Business Records Center or to any ATF office in the division in which the business was located.

LICENSE NUMBER 8-23-017-01-DR-02276 LICENSE NAME KELERCHIAN, VAHAN S **EXPIRATION** DATE January 1, 2015 MAILING ADDRESS KELERCHIAN, VAHAN S PO BOX 226 RICHBORO, PA 18954-

WILLFUL FAILURE TO TURN IN YOUR OUT-OF-BUSINESS RECORDS TO ATF OR TO A SUCCESSOR IS A CRIME PUNISHABLE AS A FELONY, IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 5 YEARS AND/OR A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$250,000.

Your permanent acquistion and disposition (A&D) records must be complete, including: (a) An entry for EACH firearm acquired during the term of your firearms business; (b) An entry for each firearm sold or transferred (including transactions with other licensees and firearms transferred to your personal possession); and (c) An entry showing the disposition of EACH of the firearms in your inventory when you discontinued your firearms operation.

Ouestions concerning your firearms records:

If you have any questions concerning your out-of-business firearms records, please contact ATF's Out-of-Business Records Center toll-free at 1-800-788-7133, ext. 03683.

Questions concerning your firearms license:

If you have any questions concerning your license, please contact ATF's Federal Firearms Licensing Center (FFLC) toll-free at 1-866-662-2750.





COMPLETE THE BELOW INFORMATION IN INK AND PLACE A CHECK MARK IN THE APPROPRIATE BOXES THAT APPLY.			
My complete firearms records, which inc	cluded all acquisition and disposit	tion books and ATF Forms 4473:	
☐ WERE sent/delivered to ATF on	(date)		
The firearms records were sent/delive	ered to:		
		(location)	
☐ WILL BE sent/delivered to ATF. I a	nticipate sending the records to A		
		(date)	
The firearms records will be sent/deliv	vered to:		
		(location)	
incomplete records to ATF, please te firearms business successor, please te if you still have the records, please te	ion below, or on a separate sheet of all us the date they were sent and well us the date the records were dell us the date they will be sent to a	of paper, why the records were incomplete. Also, if you sent the where they were sent to. If you gave the incomplete records to the elivered, the successor's name, and license number; if known. Finally, ATF and the location they will be sent to.)	_
ALL my firearms records were delive	ered to the firearms business succe	cessor (If applicable).	
Date records delivered:			
Successor's Name:			
License Number and License Name:			
☐ No firearms business was conducted,	therefore, I had no firearms recor	ords.	-
Comments			_
The think the states	Strain Selection Page 1	Control of the Contro	
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TO A THE STATE OF			
Signature	Date	Printed Name	
Telephone Number	Alternate Conta	act Number and/or E-mail Address	
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	Fax number ATF OUT-OF- BUSI 244 N	ReceivingSection@atf.gov er: 1-877-283-0288 SINESS RECORDS CENTER NEEDY ROAD	
	MARTINS	SBURG, WV 25405	-
	TALERWORK REDUCTI	AND THE STATE OF T	

# Exhibit C

From: White, J. Kevin John.K.White@usdoj.gov 🦰

Subject: RE: Vahan Kelerchian v ATF Date: August 18, 2021 at 9:23 AM

To: Civil Rights Defense Firm, P.C. Joshua@CivilRightsDefenseFirm.com

Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey A. Jeffrey.A.Cohen@usdoj.gov



### Dear Joshua,

Jeff and I forwarded your email to the ATF Philadelphia Field Division for consideration, and your three requests were denied. As you are aware, the Third Circuit dismissed Mr. Kelerchian's complaint without prejudice for failure to state a claim. Accordingly, at this time Mr. Kelerchian has not prevailed in his legal action.

Sincerely,

Kevin White Division Counsel ATF Philadelphia Field Division

From: Civil Rights Defense Firm, P.C. < <u>Joshua@CivilRightsDefenseFirm.com</u>>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 2:17 PM **To:** White, J. Kevin < <u>John.White@atf.gov</u>>

Subject: Vahan Kelerchian v ATF

Hi Kevin,

I previously reached out to AUSA Lauren DeBruicker in relation to the Third Circuit's decision in the *Kelerchian* declaring that the three arguments advanced by ATF regarding the inapplicability/invalidity of 925(c) were frivolous and in error and that I was, consistent with the U.S. Government's and our agreement, formally requesting on behalf of my client (1) reissuance/activation of his FFL that ATF, over his objection, has listed as invalid and discontinued; (2) return of his acquisition and disposition records that ATF forced him to turn in to the out-of-business center under threat of charging if he failed to do so; and (3) approval of transfers back to his FFL of all previously transferred firearms that ATF forced him to transfer under threat of charging if he failed to do so. AUSA Debruicker responded back that I should address these issues with you, as ATF Division Counsel that covers Mr. Kelerchian's FFL.

Can you kindly advise when Mr. Kelerchian's FFL will be reinstated and acquisition and disposition records returned to him? Also, please advise as to which NFA Branch employee we should deal with in having Mr. Kelerchian's NFA firearms transferred back to his license.

rnank you in advance and i nope this email linds you doing well

#### Joshua

Joshua Prince, Esq.
Firearms Industry Consulting Group® (FICG®)
a Division of Civil Rights Defense Firm, P.C.
646 Lenape Rd
Bechtelsville, PA 19505
888-202-9297 ext. 81114
610-400-8439 (fax)
Joshua@CivilRightsDefenseFirm.com

Your PA Firearms Lawyer® and PA Gun Attorney®, as well as, the home to armor piercing arguments®. You can find our firearms-specific website at <a href="https://www.FirearmsIndustryConsultingGroup.com">www.FirearmsIndustryConsultingGroup.com</a> or our Firm's main website at <a href="https://www.CivilRightsDefenseFirm.com">www.CivilRightsDefenseFirm.com</a>.

The highest compliment we can receive is the referral of your friends, family and business associates. Thank you for your trust

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Exhibit D

## Case 2:20-cv-00253-WB Document 31-1 Filed 08/03/22 Page 37 of 168 PRINCE LAW OFFICES, P.C.

Warren H. Prince Karl P. Voigt IV Joshua Prince Eric E. Winter Thomas H. Odom Stanley J. Kuter Jeffrey A Franklin Adam J. Kraut Jorge Pereira

Bechtelsville 1-610-845-3803 1-610-770-1151 Allentown Bethlehem 1-610-814-0838 Camp Hill 1-717-731-0100 Lancaster 1-717-393-7002 1-717-274-9250 Lebanon North Wales 1-215-412-0800 Pottstown 1-610-326-4200 Pottsville 1-570-621-8828 1-610-375-8425 Reading Toll Free 1-888-313-0416 1-610-845-3903 Fax

March 02, 2018

U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Attention Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives NCETR - Relief of Disabilities Section

Corporal Road, Building 3750, Redstone Arsenal Huntsville, AL 35898

RE: Vahan Kelerchian Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges FFL # 8-23-017-01-5A-02276

Dear Acting Director Brandon, DIO Orellana and ladies and gentlemen of the NCETR,

Please be advised that I have been retained by Vahan Kelerchian, FFL no. 8-23-017-01-5A-02276, in relation to his timely Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. 478.144. As there is conflicting information between the information contained in the enclosed executed Applications and 27 C.F.R. 478.144, Mr. Kelerchian is filing this form in compliance with both the instructions on the application and Section 478.144.

Specifically, as Section 478.144 requires three copies of the application to be filed with the Director, as defined in 27 C.F.R. § 478.11, but the application instructions only require one copy to be filed with NCETR, please find enclosed three copies of the executed Applications, which are being served on Acting Director Brandon, NCETR, and Phialdelphia Director of Industry Operations Juan Orellana. Please also find enclosed one copy of (1) an Authority for Release of Information, (2) Mr. Kelerchian's court documents, including the Indictment and Amended Judgement, (3) four letters of recommendation from references, who are not related to Mr. Kelerchian by blood or marriage and have known him for at least 3 years, and (4) a completed FD 258 fingerprint card.

Pursuant to Sections 925(c) and 478.144(i), as Mr. Kelerchian is an FFL holder, who has continually and timely renewed his FFL, he shall not be "barred by such disability from further operations under his license pending final action on an application for relief filed pursuant to this section."

### Case 2:20-cv-00253-WB Document 31-1 Filed 08/03/22 Page 38 of 168

Thanking you for your time and consideration in Mr. Kelerchian's request, I am

Yours truly, Prince Law Offices, P.C.

Joshua Prince

joshua@princelaw.com

Extension: 81114

jp/web Matter no. 37012 Enclosure

**Distribution** 

U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Thomas E. Brandon Mr. Juan F. Orellana

# Case 2:20-cv-00253-WB Document 31-1 Filed 08/03/22 Page 39 of 168 PRINCE LAW OFFICES, P.C.



Warren H. Prince Karl P. Voigt IV Joshua Prince Eric E. Winter Thomas H. Odom Stanley J. Kuter Jeffrey A Franklin Adam J. Kraut Jorge Pereira

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Joshua Prince

joshua@princelaw.com

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U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives **Thomas E. Brandon**Mr. Juan F. Orellana

# Case 2:20-cv-00253-WB Document 31-1 Filed 08/03/22 Page 41 of 168 PRINCE LAW OFFICES, P.C.



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March 02, 2018

Mr. Juan F. Orellana Curtis Center Suite 1000E 601 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

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Yours truly, Prince Law Offices, P.C.

Joshua Prince

joshua@princelaw.com

Extension: 81114

jp/web Matter no. 37012 Enclosure

**Distribution** 

U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Thomas E. Brandon

Mr. Juan F. Orellana

OMB No. 1140-0002

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

### **Application for Restoration of Firearms** Privileges

1. Name (Last, First, Middle	<sup>e)</sup> Kelerchia	n, Vahan, Steve	en	<del>-</del>				
2. Birthplace (City & State)  New York City	_		. Aliases			5. So	cial Security	Number <i>(Voluntary)</i>
6. Present Address (No., Street		ip Code)				7. Te	ephone Num	ber
8. Description	•	•				·		
8. Description Sex	Height	We	ight		Hair		Eyes	
M	6'2"	28	•		Brown		Brow	n
Ethnicity	Race (Check on	or more boxes)					<u>-</u>	
Hispanic or Latino American Indian or Alaska Native Black or African American White								
Not Hispanic or Latino	Asian			Native Ha	waiian or Other Pacific	: Islande	r	
9. If you are not a citizen o	f the United Stat	es, what is your INS-iss	ued alien nun	nber or adn	nission number?			
10. Residences During Past T					residence.)			
	Address (A	lumber, Street, City, Stat (a)	e and Zip Co	de)			From (b)	To (c)
							1997	Present
11. Employment Record (Li.	st present and proceedings of the second Address of the second (a)		month and j	vear of emp	oloyment.) Position (b)		From (c)	To (d)
Armament Services, In	c. 103 Cama	rs Dr. Warminster F	PA 18974	_	President		2000	2013
12. Convictions (If pardonea	l for a conviction	, write "yes" in column	(e) and atta	ch a copy o	of the pardon.)			
Specific Crime (a)		Name and Location (b)	n of Court		Sentence Received (c)	Convi	ction Date (d)	Pardoned (e)
See attached court re	cords							
						***************************************		
13. Other Arrests				<u> </u>			<del></del>	
Charge <i>(a)</i>			Date and Place (b)				D	isposition (c)
None								
								<del></del>
<del></del>				•				
								***************************************
14. Probation Officer's Name	Address and T	elephone Number		15. Parole	Officer's Name, Addre	ss and T	elephone Nur	nber
N/A	,, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	orephone realises		N/A	,			

16. Character References (Three references are required. Please applicant by blood or marriage and have known applicant for						lated to th	e	
Name and Address (a)				Occupation Te		Telephone Number (c)		nber
John T. Conway,				Funeral Dir	rector			
Anthony Baiamonte III,				Attorney				
				Retired				
Christopher J. McLoughlin,  17. Applicant Data (All questions must be answered by a "Yes"	or "No	o")		neureu				<u></u>
	Yes	No					Yes	No
a. Are you a fugitive from justice?		х	h. Have you served on acti			U (II		Х
<ul> <li>Are you an unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana, or any depressant, stimulant, or narcotic drug, or any other</li> </ul>		X	"yes" check Branch and		_	Coast		^
controlled substance?		Λ	Army   Navy	Marines	Force_	Guard		
c. Have you ever been convicted in any court of a felony, or	Х		Scrvice Serial Number		Date Entered	Active Du	ity	
any other crime, for which the judge could have imprisoned you for more than one year, even if you received a shorter	^							<u></u>
sentence, including probation? (If "yes," see Additional			Kind of Discharge		Date of Discl	harge		
Information Request 1.)				·····	<u> </u>			
d. Are you now on probation or parole?		X	1			}	Yes_	No
e. Are you under indictment or information in any court for a		一 一	i. Are you subject to a c harassing, stalking, or t					X
felony, or any other crime, for which the judge could	X		partner or child of such	partner? (If "				
imprison you for more than one year? (An information is a formal accusation of a crime by a prosecutor.) (If "yes,"			Information Request 5.)					
see Additional Information Request 2.)			j. Have you been convicted in any court of a misdem crime of domestic violence? (If "yes," see Addition					V
	ļ		mation Request 6.)	nce? (ij "yes,"	see Additiona	ai injor-		X
f. Have you ever been adjudicated mentally defective (which includes having been adjudicated incompetent to manage		X	k. Have you ever renounc	ed your United	States citizen	ship?		1
your own affairs) or have you been committed to a mental			(If "yes," see Additional Information Request 7.)			X		
institution? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 3.)	1		1. Are you an alien in the	United States?	(If "ves" see	"ves" see		-
3.,			Additional Information		(1) ) (1)			X
g. Have you ever been discharged from the armed forces under dishonorable conditions? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 4.)		Х	m. Have you ever applied federal explosives licenary and with whom filed.)				X	
18. COMPLETE THIS ITEM ONLY IF APPLICANT WAS EVER ISS	SUED A	FEDE	1	R A FEDERAL	EXPLOSIVES	LICENSE (	OR PER	RMIT.
Business Name and Address (License/Permit Issued Under)			License or Permit N	lumber	Expiration Da	ate of Late	st Lice	ense or
Vohan C. Kalarahian			0 22 047 04 4	EA 00076	Permit			
Vahan S. Kelerchian			0-23-017-01-	-5A-02276 LOA Exp. 08		(p. 08/	07/2	2018
The Business is (Check one)			A Corporation		rg			
Individually Owned A Partnership  19a. I believe I should be granted relief because:		<u></u>	A Corporation	Other (	Specify)			
I am a good person, who has never acted nor will act in a m contrary to the public interest. Moreover, I am not a threat to Furthermore, my FFL records have always been maintained	the po metic	ublic ir ulousl	n purchasing, possessing, y and even the IOIs comm	transferring or ented on my re	selling firearr ecordkeeping	ns and ar complian	nmuni ce.	ition.
19b. Important: Applicants filing for restoration privileges (Rei								
No application for restoration under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 44 will 1 appear in the Federal Register, an official U.S. Government pub of approval will give all essential details including the applicant	lication	ı avail:	able to the general public, if	and when the				
IN THE EVENT THIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED:		•						
I understand that a notice of approval will appear in the Fe	deral F	Registe	r immediately following the	issuance of the	approval, and	l		
I hereby agree to publication of the notice of approval giv	ing my	namc	, address and the date of my	conviction.				
Under penalties imposed by 18 U.S.C. 924, I declare under pe	nalties	of pe	rjury, that the answers in t	his application	are true, cor	rect, and	comple	ete.
20. Signer of Applicant & Reven					21. Date	3/2/18	3	
Note: A Completed FD 258 (Fing	erprint	Ident	ification Card) Must Accor	npany This Ap	plication.			
Mail Application Form To	<b>D:</b>		reau of Alcohol, Tobacco,		Explosives			
			CETR - Relief of Disabilitic orporal Road, Building 375					
		Re	edstone Arsenal					
		111	untsville, AL 35898					

OMB No. 1140-0002

U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

## Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges

1. Name (Last, First, Middle	e) Kelerchian, Vaha	an. Steven					
2. Birthplace (City & State) New York City	3. Date of Birt				5. Soc	ial Security	Number (Voluntary)
6. Present Address (No., Street		<u></u> -			7. Tele	phone Num	ber
_							
8. Description	Technology	- Inc. 1 (1)		1		- 1-	
Sex M	Height 6'2"	Weight 280		Brown		Brow	n
Ethnicity	Race (Check one or more b	ooxes)					
Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino American Indian or Alaska Native Black or African American						
Not Hispanic or Latino	Asian	L	Native Hawaiia	n or Other Pacifi	c Islander		
9. If you are not a citizen o	f the United States, what is	your INS-issued alien nu	mber or admissio	on number?			
10. Residences During Past T				lence.)			
	Address (Number, Stre	eet, City, State and Zip C (a)	ode)			From (b)	To (c)
						1997	Present
11. Employment Record (Li	st present and prior employ	ers and show month and	year of employm	ient.)			
Nam	ne and Address of Employer (a)		P	Position (b)		From (c)	To <i>(d)</i>
Armament Services, In	c. 103 Camars Dr. Wa	arminster PA 18974	Pro	esident		2000	2013
12. Convictions (If pardoned							
Specific Crime (a)	Name	and Location of Court (b)	Ser.	itence Received (c)		tion Date (d)	Pardoned (e)
See attached court re	cords						
13. Other Arrests							
Charge	<u> </u>	Date and Pla	ace of Arrest			Q	isposition
(a)		(1	o)	<del></del>			· (c)
None			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
						<u> </u>	
14. Probation Officer's Name	e, Address and Telephone N	umber		cer's Name, Addre	ess and Te	iephone Nur	nper
N/A			N/A				

16. Character References (Three references are required. Pleass applicant by blood or marriage and have known applicant f						d to the		
Name and Address Oc					tion Te	lephone Nu <i>(c)</i>	mber	
John T. Conway,				Funeral Di	al Director			
Anthony Baiamonte III,				Attorney				
Christopher J. McLoughlin,  17. Applicant Data (All questions must be answered by a "Yes"	or "No	o")		Retired				
	Yes	No				Yes	No	
a. Are you a fugitive from justice?		X	h. Have you served on acti "yes" check Branch and			f	X	
b. Are you an unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana, or any depressant, stimulant, or narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?	,	X	Army Navy		Air Coa Force Gu			
c. Have you ever been convicted in any court of a felony, or	Х		Scrvice Serial Number		Date Entered Act	<del></del>		
any other crime, for which the judge could have imprisoned you for more than one year, even if you received a shorter sentence, including probation? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 1.)	^		Kind of Discharge	Date of Discharge		ge .		
	ļ				•	Yes	No	
d. Are you now on probation or parole?		X	i. Are you subject to a c				X	
e. Are you under indictment or information in any court for a felony, or any other crime, for which the judge could imprison you for more than one year? (An information is a	X		harassing, stalking, or t partner or child of such Information Request 5.)	partner? (If				
formal accusation of a crime by a prosecutor.) (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 2.)				ted in any court of a misdemeanor ence? (If "yes," see Additional Info			X	
f. Have you ever been adjudicated mentally defective (which includes having been adjudicated incompetent to manage your own affairs) or have you been committed to a mental		X	k. Have you ever renounce (If "yes," see Additional			o?	X	
institution?" (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 3.)			I. Are you an alien in the Additional Information		(If "yes," see		X	
g. Have you ever been discharged from the armed forces under dishonorable conditions? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 4.)		Х	m. Have you ever applied federal explosives licen- and with whom filed.)					
18. COMPLETE THIS ITEM ONLY IF APPLICANT WAS EVER ISS	SUED A	FEDE		R A FEDERAL	EXPLOSIVES LICI	ENSE OR PE	ERMIT.	
Business Name and Address (License/Permit Issued Under)			License or Permit N	lumber	Expiration Date	of Latest Li	cense or	
Vahan S. Kelerchian			8-23-017-01-	54 02276	Permit			
The Business is (Check one)			0-23-017-01-		LOA Exp.	08/07/	2018	
■ Individually Owned			A Corporation	Other (	Specify)			
19a. I believe I should be granted relief because: I am a good person, who has never acted nor will act in a m contrary to the public interest. Moreover, I am not a threat to Furthermore, my FFL records have always been maintained	the po metic	ublic ir ulousl	n purchasing, possessing, y and even the IOIs comm	transferring or ented on my re	selling firearms a ecordkeeping cor	and ammur npliance.	nition.	
19b. Important: Applicants filing for restoration privileges (Rei								
No application for restoration under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 44 will I appear in the Federal Register, an official U.S. Government pub of approval will give all essential details including the applicant	lication	availa	able to the general public, if	and when the				
IN THE EVENT THIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED:								
I understand that a notice of approval will appear in the Fe	deral F	Registe	r immediately following the	issuance of the	approval, and			
I hereby agree to publication of the notice of approval giv	ing my	name,	, address and the date of my	conviction.				
Under penalties imposed by 18 U.S.C. 924, I declare under pe	nalties	of per	rjury, that the answers in t	his application	are true, correct	, and comp	lete.	
20. Signal Co of Applicant & Revuly					21. Date	3/2/18		
Note: A Completed FD 258 (Fing	erprint	ldent	ification Card) Must Accor	npany This Ap	plication.			
Mail Application Form To	);	NO Co	ireau of Alcohol, Tobacco, CETR - Relief of Disabilitic orporal Road, Building 375 edstone Arsenal	s Section	Explosives			
		H	antsville. AL 35898					

OMB No. 1140-0002

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

## **Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges**

1. Name (Last, First, Middle	" Kelerchian, Vahan, St	even					<del></del>		
2. Birthplace (City & State)  New York City	3. Date of Birth	4. Aliases			5. Soci	al Security	Number (Voluntary)		
6. Present Address (No., Street					7. Tele	phone Num	ber		
8. Description					<u> </u>				
Sex M	Height 6'2"	Weight 280		Hair Brown		Eyes Brow	n		
Ethnicity									
Hispanic or Latino American Indian or Alaska Native Black or African American						White			
Not Hispanic or Latino	Asian		Native Hawaii	an or Other Pacifi	c Islander				
	f the United States, what is your IN				····				
10. Residences During Past To	en Years (In columns (b) and (c) en		-	dence.)					
	Address (Number, Street, City, (a)	, State and Zip C	ode)			From (b)	To (c)		
					,	1997	Present		
11. Employment Record (Lis	st present and prior employers and	show month and	year of employn	nent.)					
Nam	e and Address of Employer (a)		1	Position <i>(b)</i>		From (c)	To (d)		
Armament Services, In	c. 103 Camars Dr. Warmins	ter PA 18974	Pr	esident		2000	2013		
12. Convictions (If pardoned	for a conviction, write "yes" in co	olumn (e) and att	ich a copy of th	e pardon.)					
Specific Crime (a)		cation of Court	Se	ntence Received		tion Date (d)	Pardoned (e)		
See attached court re-	cords								
13. Other Arrests						1			
Charge (a)	Charge Date and Place of Arrest (a) (b)					D	isposition (c)		
None									
14. Probation Officer's Name	, Address and Telephone Number		15. Parole Offi	cer's Name, Addre	ess and Te	lephone Nu	nber		
N/A	•		N/A			-			

16. Character References (Three references are required. Please applicant by blood or marriage and have known applicant for			,	•		he	
Name and Address (a)				Occupation Te		Telephone Number (c)	
John T. Conway,				Funeral Director			
Anthony Baiamonte III,				Attorney			
Christopher J. McLoughlin,				Retired			
17. Applicant Data (All questions must be answered by a "Yes"	or "No	)")		Tiomod			
	Yes	No				Yes	No
a. Are you a fugitive from justice?      b. Are you an unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana, or		X	h. Have you served on acti "yes" check Branch and				X
any depressant, stimulant, or narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?		X	Army Navy		Air Coast Force Guard		
c. Have you ever been convicted in any court of a felony, or	Х		Scrvice Serial Number		Date Entered Active D	Outy	
any other crime, for which the judge could have imprisoned you for more than one year, even if you received a shorter	^`		Kind of Discharge		Date of Discharge		
sentence, including probation? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 1.)			Kind of Discharge		Date of Discharge		
d. Are you now on probation or parole?		×				Yes	No
e. Are you under indictment or information in any court for a		<del>  ^</del>	i. Are you subject to a c harassing, stalking, or t				X
felony, or any other crime, for which the judge could imprison you for more than one year? (An information is a	X		partner or child of such Information Request 5.)	partner? (If			
formal accusation of a crime by a prosecutor.) (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 2.)				ted in any court of a misdemeanor		1	
	ļ		crime of domestic viole mation Request 6.)	nce? (If "yes."	' see Additional Infor-		X
f. Have you ever been adjudicated mentally defective (which includes having been adjudicated incompetent to manage		×	k. Have you ever renounc			<del>                                     </del>	1
your own affairs) or have you been committed to a mental			(If "yes," see Additiona	l Information F	Request 7.)		X
institution? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 3.)	:		I. Are you an alien in the		(If "yes," see	1	X
			Additional Information			—	^_
g. Have you ever been discharged from the armed forces under dishonorable conditions? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 4.)		X	m. Have you ever applied federal explosives licen and with whom filed.)			X	
18. COMPLETE THIS ITEM ONLY IF APPLICANT WAS EVER ISS	SUED A	FEDE	RAL FIREARMS LICENSE O	R A FEDERAL	EXPLOSIVES LICENSE	OR PE	RMIT.
Business Name and Address (License/Permit Issued Under)			License or Permit N	lumber	Expiration Date of La	test Lic	ense or
Vahan S. Kelerchian			8-23-017-01-	5A-02276	LOA Exp. 08	/07/	2018
The Business is (Check one)							
Individually Owned A Partnership			A Corporation	Other (	Specify)		
<ul><li>19a. I believe I should be granted relief because:</li><li>I am a good person, who has never acted nor will act in a m</li></ul>	anner	danne	rous to public safety and t	he granting of	the relief to me would	not be	
contrary to the public interest. Moreover, I am not a threat to Furthermore, my FFL records have always been maintained	the p	ublic ir	purchasing, possessing,	transferring or	selling firearms and a	mmun	
19b. Important: Applicants filing for restoration privileges (Rel	ief Ero	m Divo	hilities under Chanter 44	Title 18 II S.C. (	025(c) must complete th	nic itom	
No application for restoration under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 44 will be							
appear in the Federal Register, an official U.S. Government pub of approval will give all essential details including the applicant	lication	availa	ible to the general public, if	and when the			
IN THE EVENT THIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED:							
I understand that a notice of approval will appear in the Fe	deral R	Registe	r immediately following the	issuance of the	approval, and		
I hereby agree to publication of the notice of approval giv	ing my	name,	address and the date of my	conviction.			
Under penalties imposed by 18 U.S.C. 924, I declare under pe	nalties	of per	rjury, that the answers in t	his application	are true, correct, and	compl	etc.
20. Signal to of Applicant & Revely				-	21. Date 3/2/1	8	
Note: A Completed FD 258 (Fing	erprint	Ident	ification Card) Must Accor	npany This Ap	plication.		
Mail Application Form To	D:		reau of Alcohol, Tobacco,		Explosives		
		_	CETR - Relief of Disabilitie Prporal Road, Building 375				
			dstone Arsenal				

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

### **Authority for Release of Information**

Authorit	v for	Dalages	of !	Ínform	offer
AULHUFIL	v ior	Release	or :	пиоги	апоп

THIS SHEET MUST ACCOMPANY ALL COPIES OF ATF FORM 3210.1, APPLICATION FOR RESTORATION OF FIREARMS PRIVILEGES

- 1. Authority. The authority to solicit information is stated in ATF Form 3210.1, Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges. This form is in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974.
- 2. Purpose and Use. The information you supply by signing this release of information form will be used principally to aid in the completion of a background investigation conducted by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(c), in conjunction with your Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges.
- 3. Effects of Nondisclosure. Your signature on this Authority for Release of Information form is voluntary; however, your failure to complete this form may mean that the required information cannot be obtained to complete your investigation, and may result in the termination of your application.

may mean that the required information cannot be obtain	ned to complete	your investigation, and may result in	the termination of your application.
Name of Applicant (Include Last, First, and Middle Name as	nd all aliases use	ed)	Date of Birth
Kelerchian, Vahan, Steven			
Present Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code)			Telephone Number (Include Area Code)
			Coue)
This release, when presented by a duly authorized repres and obtain copies and abstracts of records and to receive release of the following data or records to the Department Employment Information, Military Information/Records,	statements and it of Justice (AT	information regarding my backgrou F):	
	Medical Info	rmation Records ATF Form 3210.1, Complete the Fol	lowing Section.
Name of Attending Physicians, Alcohol or Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Centers, or Mental Health Institutions	(Includ	Address ing City, State and Zip Code)	Area Code and Telephone Number
Signature of Applicant	Date 3/2/18	Special Agent (Signature)	Date

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 1 of 8

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** 

Plaintiff,

**CASE NUMBER: 2:13CR66-001** 

**USM Number: 12810-027** 

**KERRY C CONNOR** 

VS.

**VAHAN KELERCHIAN** 

P. JEFFREY SCI

P. JEFFREY SCHLESINGER DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEYS

Defendant.

### AMENDED JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

Date of Original Judgment Order: 2/7/2018.

Amended on 2/12/2018 to correct administrative error on page 3, under C.R. 35(a): 2-7 is

replaced by 3-7.

THE DEFENDANT was found guilty by Jury on counts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 of the Indictment on October 15, 2015.

ACCORDINGLY, the court has adjudicated that the defendant is guilty of the following offenses:

Title, Section & Nature of Offense	<b>Date Offense Ended</b>	Number(s)
18: 371 CONSPIRACY TO PROVIDE FALSE INFORMATION TO A FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE	January 2010	1
18:371 CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION	September 2010	2
18:371 CONSPIRACY TO MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS - DEMONSTRATION LETTERS	March 28, 2010	3
18:1001 MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO A FEDERAL AGENCY	March 28, 2010	4-7
18:1956(h) CONSIPRACY TO LAUNDER MONETARY INSTRUMENTS AND FORFEITURE	January 2010	9

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 8 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. The defendant has been found not guilty on count 8.

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant must notify the United States Attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant must notify the court and United States Attorney of any material change in economic circumstances.

February 5, 2018

Date of Imposition of Judgment

### Case 2:20-cv-00253-WB Document 31-1 Filed 08/03/22 Page 51 of 168

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 2 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 2 of 8

s/ Joseph S. Van Bokkelen
Signature of Judge
Joseph S. Van Bokkelen, United States District Judge
Name and Title of Judge
February 12, 2018

Date

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 3 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 3 of 8

### **IMPRISONMENT**

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of **100 months**.

- \* 60-month term as to each of the following counts: Count 1, Count 3, Count 4, Count 5, Count 6, and Count 7. Each 60-month term for this group of counts is to be served concurrently with the other counts in this group.
- \* A 60-month term as to Count 2: 40 of those months are to be served consecutively as to Count 1 and Counts 3–7, and 20 of those months are to be served concurrently with Count 1 and Counts 3–7.
- \* A 40-month sentence as to Count 9, to be served consecutively as to Count 1 and Counts 3–7, but concurrently with Count 2.

The Court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:

That the defendant be designated to serve his sentence at Fort Dix, NJ.

That the defendant be given credit for time served while awaiting sentencing.

The defendant is placed into the custody of the United States Marshal.

I have executed this judgment as follows:			
Defendant deliveredwith a certified copy of this judgment.	to	at	,
		UNITED STATES M	ARSHAL
	By: _ DEP	UTY UNITED STATES M	ARSHAL

RETURN

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 4 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 4 of 8

### **SUPERVISED RELEASE**

After Mr. Kelerchian's incarceration is over, Mr. Kelerchian will be placed on supervised release for a period of **1 year**. His supervised release will have conditions of supervision as stated below, except that conditions 19, 20, 21 and 22 will cease to be in effect once all of Mr. Kelerchian's financial obligations as related to this case are fulfilled.

- 1. Mr. Kelerchian may not commit another federal, state, or local crime.
- 2. Mr. Kelerchian may not unlawfully use, possess, or distribute a controlled substance.
- 3. There's no evidence that Mr. Kelerchian is in danger of drug abuse. Accordingly, the mandatory drug testing condition is suspended.
- 4. Mr. Kelerchian must cooperate in the collection of his DNA sample as directed by the probation officer if the collection of such a sample is authorized pursuant to section 3 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000.
- 5. Within 72 hours of release from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, Mr. Kelerchian must report between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to the probation office in the district to which he is released.
- 6. Mr. Kelerchian may not knowingly be outside the judicial district between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. without the Court's or probation officer's permission. In any case, Mr. Kelerchian may not knowingly travel more than 50 miles outside the judicial district without the Court's or probation officer's permission. The probation office will provide Mr. Kelerchian a map describing the boundaries of the judicial district at the start of supervision. After 12 months of Mr. Kelerchian being placed on supervision, the probation office must submit a report to the Court indicating whether the travel restrictions should be lifted or modified.
- 7. Mr. Kelerchian must report to the probation officer in the manner and frequency as reasonably directed by the probation officer. However, he may be required to report in person at the probation office only between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on the days the probation office is open for business.
- 8. In all matters relating to his conditions of supervision, Mr. Kelerchian must truthfully answer the probation officer's questions. This condition does not prevent Mr. Kelerchian from invoking his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.
- 9. Mr. Kelerchian must follow the instructions of the probation officer as they relate to the conditions of supervision. Mr. Kelerchian may petition the Court for relief or clarification regarding a condition he believes has become unreasonable.
- 10. Mr. Kelerchian must live at a location approved by the probation officer.
- 11. If Mr. Kelerchian plans to change where he lives or anything about his living

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 5 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 5 of 8

arrangements (for example, the people he lives with), he must inform the probation officer at least 14 days before the change. If informing the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unexpected circumstances, Mr. Kelerchian must inform the probation officer as soon as possible, and no later than 72 hours after the change.

- 12. If Mr. Kelerchian plans to change where he works or anything about his work (for example, his position or his job responsibilities), Mr. Kelerchian must inform the probation officer at least 14 days before the change. If informing the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unexpected circumstances, Mr. Kelerchian must inform the probation officer within 72 hours after the change.
- 13. Mr. Kelerchian must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer.
- 14. Mr. Kelerchian may not own or possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or any other dangerous weapon. A dangerous weapon is an instrument that is specially designed as a weapon.
- 15. Mr. Kelerchian may not knowingly meet, communicate, or otherwise interact with a person whom he knows to be engaged, or planning to be engaged, in criminal activity.
- 16. Between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., Mr. Kelerchian must permit a probation officer to visit him at home or any other reasonable location and must permit confiscation of any contraband observed in plain view by the probation officer. A visit between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. may be conducted only when the probation officer has a reasonable belief that Mr. Kelerchian has violated a condition of supervision and that a visit during those hours would reveal information or contraband that would not be revealed by a visit at any other time.
- 17. If any portion of the special assessment remains unpaid when Mr. Kelerchian is released from prison, he must pay it within 12 weeks of his release, or, if financially unable to fulfill this requirement, he must arrange a payment schedule with the probation office.
- 18. If a fine is imposed, and if any portion of the fine remains unpaid when Mr. Kelerchian is released from prison, he must pay the fine in monthly installments of \$1,000 until it is paid in full.
- 19. Mr. Kelerchian may not incur new credit charges or open additional lines of credit without the approval of the probation officer.
- 20. Upon the probation officer's request, Mr. Kelerchian must provide the officer with any financial information regarding Mr. Kelerchian's ability to pay a fine, and must authorize the release of any financial information. The request must be in writing and prompted by Mr. Kelerchian's failure to comply with a payment schedule ordered for a period of 60 consecutive days, and the request must describe the specific financial information needed for determining Mr. Kelerchian's current ability to pay. The probation office will share Mr. Kelerchian's financial information with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

USDC IN/ND, case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 6 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 6 of 8

- 21. Mr. Kelerchian must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of any material change in his economic circumstances that might affect his ability to pay any Court-ordered financial obligation.
- 22. Mr. Kelerchian may not transfer, give away, sell, or otherwise convey any asset \$500 without the approval of the probation officer.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 7 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 7 of 8

### **CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES**

The defendant shall pay the following total criminal monetary penalties in accordance with the schedule of payments set forth in this judgment.

Total Assessment	<u>Total Fine</u>	<b>Total Restitution</b>
\$800	\$100,000	NONE

The defendant shall make the special assessment payment payable to Clerk, U.S. District Court, 5400 Federal Plaza, Suite 2300, Hammond, IN 46320. The special assessment payment shall be due immediately.

### FINE

A fine in the amount of \$100,000 is imposed.

### RESTITUTION

No restitution imposed.

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) fine principal, (5) fine interest, (6) community restitution, (7) penalties, and (8) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.

### **FORFEITURE**

The defendant shall forfeit \$28,200.00 in United States Currency.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 8 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 8 of 8

Name: <u>VAHAN KELERCHIAN</u> Docket No.:2:13CR66-001

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SUPERVISION CONDITIONS**

Upon a finding of a violation of probation or supervised release, I understand that the Court may (1) revoke supervision, (2) extend the term of supervision, and/or (3) modify the conditions of supervision.

I have reviewed the Judgment and Commitment Order in my case and the supervision conditions therein. These conditions have been read to me. I fully understand the conditions and have been provided a copy of them.

(Signed)	
Defendant	Date
U.S. Probation Officer/Designated Witness	Date

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 1 of 26

INITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHER	N DISTR	ICT OF INDIANA DIVISION	₹′.		•	: ?	:	•	2: 03
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	CAUSE NO:	FT.,	•		••	•	,,	Unition
v. VAHAN KELERCHIAN	)	18 U.S.C. § 2 18 U.S.C. § 371 18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(2) 18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(1)( 18 U.S.C. § 924(d) 18 U.S.C. § 1001 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)	2 (A)	•	1	3	С	R	66

### INDICTMENT

### THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

### COUNT 1 (Conspiring to Provide False Information to a Federal Firearms Licensee)

At all times material to this indictment:

### **BACKGROUND**

- VAHAN KELERCHAIN (KELERCHIAN) was the principal owner and operator
   Armament Services International Inc., (ASI). ASI is engaged in the sale of firearms and
   related items primarily through internet sales.
- 2. ASI principal place of business is located in Warminster, Pennsylvania.
- KELERCHIAN holds a Class 3 Federal Firearms License (FFL) allowing him to deal in fully automatic weapons. KELERCHIAN also holds licenses to manufacture firearms and sell destructive devices, (i.e. grenade launchers)
- 4. The Lake County Sheriff's Department was a law enforcement agency operating in Lake County, Indiana.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 2 of 26

- 5. JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR was employed for approximately 17 years as a sworn law enforcement officer with the Lake County Sheriff's Department, and served as the Deputy Chief for the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- 6. RONALD D. SLUSSER was employed for approximately ten (10) years as a sworn law enforcement officer with the Lake County Sheriff's Department, was a member of the Lake County Sheriff's Department Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit and a firearms instructor.
- 7. E & R Law Enforcement Sales was a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) based in Crown Point, Indiana, owned and operated in part by RONALD D. SLUSSER. RONALD D. SLUSSER previously held a Federal Firearms License while operating individually as "Ron's Gun Sales."
- 8. R & D Law Enforcement Sales was another Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL), based in Merrillville, Indiana, and owned and operated in part by RONALD D. SLUSSER.
- 9. PF Custom Guns was a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL).
- 10. Heckler and Koch (hereinafter H&K) was a well know German based firearms manufacturer producing a wide assortment of handguns, rifles, machineguns, and submachineguns for both military and civilian use. H&K had numerous subsidiaries operating within the United States in Virginia, New Hampshire, and Georgia. H&K had served as a United States government contractor for the both the United States Military and United States civilian law enforcement agencies. H&K was a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL).

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 3 of 26

<u>.</u> . . . .

- 10. Insight Technology Inc., (hereinafter Insight) located in Londonderry, New Hampshire, was a manufacturer of highly sophisticated laser aiming and illumination devices, night vision devices, laser range finding systems, computerized fire control systems, thermal imaging systems, and sensor fusion systems. Insight's products were, and are still are, used by the United States military, Federal law enforcement agencies, and allied nations. In addition, Insight Technology Inc. developed and maintained a line of tactical illuminators (laser aiming devices) restricted for use only by the military and Law Enforcement agencies, as well as products for sale to the general public.
- 11. Federal law restricted to law enforcement agencies or the military the sale and ownership of fully automatic machineguns manufactured after 1986. No individual law enforcement officer could purchase a post-1986 fully automatic machinegun. Possession of post-1986 fully automatic machineguns by a law enforcement officer could only be authorized by the officer's law enforcement agency and only for the law enforcement duties of that officer.

### OBJECT OF THE CONSPIRACY

12. Between on or about November 2008, and continuing through on or about January of 2010, in the Northern District of Indiana and elsewhere:

### VAHAN KELERCHIAN

defendant herein, together with Joseph Kumstar, and Ronald Slusser, did knowingly combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with each other, and with others known and unknown to the grand jury, to commit an offense against the United States, that is, to knowingly make false statements and representations with respect to information under Chapter 44, of Title 18 of the United States Code, required to be kept in the records of

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 4 of 26 individuals licensed under Chapter 44, relating to the acquisition of firearms, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 924(a)(1)(A).

### HOW THE CONSPIRACY OPERATED

- 13. It was part of the conspiracy that JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER used their position as sworn law enforcement officers, and VAHAN KELERCHAIN used his position as a Class 3 firearms dealer to acquire approximately 71 (Seventy-One) fully automatic H&K machineguns in the name of the Lake County Sheriff's Department knowing that the Lake County Sheriff's Department was not the true owner of these machineguns.
- 14. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHAIN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER knew these H&K machineguns were manufactured after 1986, and therefore could only be acquired by law enforcement agencies and not individual law enforcement officers.
- 15. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring the H&K machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER caused false entries listing the Lake County Sheriff's Department as the owner of these machineguns, to be made by individuals and companies required to keep such records under Chapter 44, of Title 18 of the United States Code.
- 16. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER, used Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead to create letters which falsely represented that the

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 5 of 26

- H&K machineguns were being purchased by and were going to be used by, the Lake County Sheriff's Department in carrying out its law enforcement responsibilities.
- 17. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER used the Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead to create documents which falsely represented the H&K machineguns were to be used by the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- 18. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER created false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's Department purchase orders to convince the suppliers of the H&K machineguns that the Lake County Sheriff's Department was the true purchaser of the H&K machineguns even though the defendants themselves provided the funds for the purchase of these H&K machineguns.
- 19. It was further part of the conspiracy that VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R.
  KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER acquired these H&K machineguns for a cost of between approximately \$1200 and \$1600 each.
- 20. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER had all of the H&K machineguns shipped to the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- 21. It was further part of the conspiracy that after acquiring these machineguns, all of the H&K machineguns were removed from the Lake County Sheriff's Department to the personal residence of RONALD D. SLUSSER.
- 22. It was further part of the conspiracy that after the H&K machineguns were at the personal residence of RONALD D. SLUSSER, he would remove the upper receivers (the barrel)

- . USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 6 of 26 and any other additional parts that could be removed from the lower receiver (the firing
  - mechanism of the H&K machinegun).
  - 23. It was further part of the conspiracy that after removing the upper receivers and any other additional parts that could be removed from the lower receiver, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER would sell on the internet to any willing purchaser, all of these upper receivers and additional parts. The sale of these upper receivers and parts would range from approximately \$2,500 to \$3800 each.
  - 24. It was further part of the conspiracy that after removing the upper receivers, RONALD D. SLUSSER would return some of the upper receivers to VAHAN KELERCHIAN.
  - 25. At no time did VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D.

    SLUSSER have proper authority from the Lake County Sheriff's Department to engage in any of the above mentioned purchases or sales of the H&K machineguns or their parts.
  - 26. At no time were any of the H&K machineguns obtained by VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER listed in the property inventory of the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
  - 27. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect its objects:

### VAHAN KELERCHIAN,

Defendant herein, together with JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER, and others known and unknown to the grand jury performed the following:

### **OVERT ACTS**

First Machinegun Purchase

 a. On or about December 22, 2008, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR issued a "Letter of Intent" on Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead to H&K for (50) USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 7 of 26

- additional H&K model 416 fully automatic machineguns. This letter of intent stated these machineguns were for the "exclusive law enforcement use of the Lake County Sheriff's Department" and that the "point of contact for all inquiries in this matter will be Warrant Officer Ron Slusser." The letter then listed RONALD D. SLUSSER'S home phone number. This letter was signed "Joseph Kumstar, Chief of Police."
- b. VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLSSER used their personal funds to obtain these machineguns and did not have proper authorization of the Lake County Sheriff's Department to purchase these machineguns. These (50) machineguns were purchased for approximately \$1650 each.
- c. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided payment to a third party gun dealer in the amount of approximately \$83,026.
- d. Shortly after obtaining these (50) H&K fully automatic machineguns, RONALD D. SLUSSER did cut up and remove the upper receiver barrels from these (50) H&K fully automatic machineguns. Some of these upper barrels were sold on the internet to any willing buyer with VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER retaining the proceeds from this sale. Some of the upper barrels were returned to KELERCHIAN.
- e. In or about May of 2011, during the execution of an organized crime search warrant by Montreal, Canada, gun and gang law enforcement officials, recovered four upper barrels from this (50) H&K fully automatic machinegun purchase by VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER.

. USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 8 of 26

The serial numbers on these upper receivers (barrels) listed the Lake County Sheriff's Department as the registered owner.

### Second Machinegun Purchase

- f. In or about February of 2009, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR issued another "Letter of Intent" on Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead to H&K for (9) H&K model MP5KN fully automatic machineguns. This letter of intent stated these machineguns were for the exclusive use of the Lake County Police Department.
- g. In or about February of 2009, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR and RONALD D. SLUSSER did cause a false and fictitious Lake County

  Sheriff's Department purchase order to be mailed or faxed, which represented the Lake County Sheriff's Department to be the purchaser of these machineguns even though it was not the true purchaser as required by law.
- h. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided payment to H&K, the gun manufacturer /distributer in the amount of approximately \$11,664.
- i. Shortly after obtaining these (9) H&K fully automatic machineguns, RONALD D. SLUSSER did cut up and remove the upper receiver barrels from these fully automatic machineguns. These upper barrels were sold to Person A in Utah. Person A paid Slusser \$18,900 for these H&K parts. Slusser then paid \$9450 to Kumstar and \$9450 to Kelerchian. These payments to Kelerchian and Kumstar were paid because Kelerchain and Kumstar had fronted money for this purchase.

### Third Machinegun Purchase

j. In or about October 2009, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR issued another "Letter of Intent" on Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead for (12) H&K model USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 9 of 26

- 53A3 fully automatic sub-machineguns. This letter of intent stated these sub-machineguns would be the property of the Lake County Sheriff's Department and would not be resold or transferred, and would be used to carry out the official duties of the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- k. In or about October of 2009, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR and RONALD D. SLUSSER did cause another false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's Department purchase order to be mailed or faxed, which represented the Lake County Sheriff's Department to be the purchaser of these sub-machineguns even though it was not the true purchaser as required by law.
- I. Shortly after obtaining these (12) H&K fully automatic sub-machineguns, RONALD D. SLUSSER did cut up and remove the upper receiver barrels from these fully automatic machineguns. These upper barrels were sold to Person A in Utah. Person A paid Slusser \$31,200 for these H&K parts. Slusser then paid Kelerchian \$28,200. This payment to Kelerchain was made because Kelerchian had fronted the money for this purchase.
- m. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided payment to the H&K, the gun manufacturer/distributer, in the amount of approximately \$16,800.
- n. At no time did VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER have the proper permission of the Lake County Sheriff's Department to engage in any of the above three purchases or subsequent sales of these H&K sub-machineguns.
- 28. In the purchasing each of these (71) machineguns and sub-machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER knowingly caused

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 10 of 26

false entries to be made in the books and records of the companies supplying these firearms, in that these records reflected the Lake County Sheriff's Department as the registered owner of these (71) firearms when in fact, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER knew that to be false.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code 371 and 924(a)(1)(A).

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 11 of 26

### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

### **COUNT 2**

### (Conspiring to Defraud the Food and Drug Administration)

1. The Grand Jury realleges and reincorporates by reference paragraphs 1-11, of Count 1 as though fully set forth herein;

### OBJECT OF THE CONSPIRACY

Between on or about December 2008, and continuing through on or about September
 2010, in the Northern District of Indiana and elsewhere:

### VAHAN KELERCHIAN,

defendants herein, did knowingly combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with JOSEPH KUMSTAR, RONALD D. SLUSSER, and with others known and unknown to the grand jury, to defraud the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an agency of the United States, by interfering with and obstructing the lawful government functions of the FDA to:

- a. Limit the sale of various restricted laser aiming sight devices to the military and law enforcement agencies only;
- b. Correctly identify first line purchasers of various laser aiming sight devices which were restricted to military or law enforcement agency purchasers only.

All in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 371.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 12 of 26

### HOW THE CONSPIRACY OPERATED

- 3. It was part of the conspiracy that JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER used their position as sworn law enforcement officers, along with VAHAN KELERCHIAN, to acquire approximately 74 (Seventy-Four) restricted laser aiming sight devices by fraudulently using the name of the Lake County Sheriff's Department and The Lowell, Indiana, Police Department, knowing that the Lake County Sheriff's Department and the Lowell Police Department were not the true owners of these restricted laser aiming devices.
- 4. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser aiming sights, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER knew they could only be acquired by law enforcement agencies and not individual law enforcement officers.
- 5. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these (74) restricted laser aiming sight devices, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER caused false information to be recorded in the books and records of the Insight Technology, Inc., regarding who was the true first purchaser of these laser aiming sight devices. Furthermore, by causing false information to be recorded in the books records of the Insight Technology, Inc., VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER interfered with and obstructed the lawful government functions of the FDA to (a) limit the sale of various restricted laser aiming sight devices to only the military and law enforcement agencies and (b) correctly identify first line purchasers of these (74) various laser aiming sight devices, the sale of which was restricted to military or law enforcement agency purchases only.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 13 of 26

- 6. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights

  VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER caused

  to be submitted to Insight Technology, Inc., a false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's

  Department purchase order for the purpose of inducing Insight Technology, Inc., to

  believe that these restricted laser sights were being purchased by the Lake County

  Sheriff's Department, when in fact the defendants were acquiring these restricted laser

  sights with their own personal funds and for their personal use and resale.
- 7. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights

  VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER caused

  to be submitted to Insight Technology, Inc., a false and fictitious Lowell Police

  Department documents for the purpose of inducing Insight Technology, Inc., to believe

  that these restricted laser sights were being purchased by the Lowell Police Department,

  when in fact the defendants were acquiring these restricted laser sights with their own

  personal funds and for their personal use and resale.
- 8. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights

  VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER would

  submit to Insight Technology, Inc., a "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" signed by

  JOSPEH R. KUMSTAR which falsely represented that the restricted laser sights being

  purchased would "not be sold or transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian

  personnel."
- It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights
   VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER would
   submit to Insight Technology, Inc., a "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" which purported

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 14 of 26

- to be signed by the proper authorities at the Lowell Police Department but in fact, falsely represented that the restricted laser sights being purchased would "not be sold or transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian personnel."
- 10. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER caused false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's Department purchase orders to be created which falsely represented that the restricted laser sights were being purchased by the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- 11. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights

  VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER would

  cause these restricted laser sights to be delivered to the Lake County Sheriff's Department

  or the Lowell Police Department rather than to their personal residences.
- 12. It was further part of the conspiracy that after acquiring these restricted laser sights, all of them were removed from the Lake County Sheriff's Department and the Lowell Police

  Department to the personal residence of either KUMSTAR or SLUSSER.
- 13. It was further part of the conspiracy that after these restricted laser sights were at the either KUMSTAR or SLUSSER's residence, RONALD D. SLUSSER would sell some these restricted laser sights on the internet to any willing purchaser. The sale of these restricted laser sights ranged from approximately \$2,800 to \$3000 each. Some of the restricted lasers aiming sights were retained by each of the defendants.
- 14. At no time did VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER have proper authority from the Lake County Sheriff's Department or the

- . USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 15 of 26
  - Lowell Police Department to engage in any of the above mentioned purchases or sales of the restricted laser sights.
  - 15. At no time were any of the restricted laser sights obtained by VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER listed in the property inventory of the Lake County Sheriff's Department or the Lowell Police Department.
  - 16. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect its objects:

### VAHAN KELERCHIAN,

Defendant herein, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER, and other conspirators, known and unknown to the grand jury performed the following:

### **OVERT ACTS**

### First Laser Sight Purchase

- a. In or about December 6, 2008, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER ordered from Insight Technology Inc., approximately 25 various restricted laser sights having a value of approximately \$27,000.
- b. On or about December 6, 2008, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, submitted to Insight Technology, Inc., a "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" signed by JOSPEH R. KUMSTAR which represented that the restricted laser sights being purchased would "not be sold or transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian personnel."
- c. In or about December of 2008, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR signed a false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's Department purchase order inducing Insight Technology, Inc., to believe that the Lake County Sheriff's Department was the

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 16 of 26

- true purchaser of these restricted laser sights even though the defendants themselves provided the funds for the purchase of these restricted laser sights.
- d. In or about January of 2009, Insight Technology, Inc. shipped these restricted laser sights to the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- e. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided payment to Insight
  Technologies Inc., in excess of \$17,000.
- f. After obtaining these restricted laser sights, RONALD D. SLUSSER sent back to VAHAN KELERCHIAN approximately 12 of these restricted laser sights.
- g. After obtaining these restricted laser sights, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH
  R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER sold via the internet some these restricted laser sights to any and all willing purchasers, including Keith Mitts.
- h. On or about August 21, 2009, the Department of Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) engaged in a successful undercover purchase of a restricted laser sight being offered for sale on E-Bay by a Keith Mitts. DCIS undercover agents paid \$4,200 for a restricted laser aiming sight which was traced back to the December 6, 2008, laser sight order from Insight Technology, Inc., which was sent to the Lake County Sheriff's Department. Subsequent to this undercover purchase, two additional restricted laser sights of the same model and type that were part of the December 6, 2008, laser sight order from Insight Technology, Inc., which was sent to the Lake County Sheriff's Department, were recovered from Mitt's Mississippi residence during Mitt's shooting and standoff with local police officers.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 17 of 26

### Second Laser Sight Purchase

- i. In or about December 2009, the defendants ordered from Insight Technology Inc., approximately 12 restricted laser sights having a value of approximately \$15,000.
- j. On or about December 2009, RONALD R. SLUSSER submitted to Insight Technology Inc., an "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" which represented that the restricted laser sights being purchased would "not be sold or transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian personnel."
- k. In or about January of 2010, Insight Technology, Inc. shipped these restricted laser sights and RONALD D. SLUSSER obtained these restricted laser sights.
- For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided several payments to Insight
  Technologies Inc., totaling more than \$15,000.
- m. After obtaining these restricted laser sights, RONALD D. SLUSSER sold via the internet these restricted laser sights to any willing purchaser.

### Third Laser Sight Purchase

- n. In or about February 2010, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER ordered from Insight Technology Inc., approximately 22 various restricted laser sights having value of approximately \$30,000.
- o. On or about February 23, 2010, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR submitted to Insight Technology Inc., an "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" signed by JOSPEH R. KUMSTAR which represented that the restricted laser sights being purchased

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 18 of 26

- would "not be sold or transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian personnel."
- p. In or about February 2010, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR and RONALD SLUSSER created a false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's Department purchase order inducing Insight Technology, Inc., to believe that the Lake County Sheriff's Department was the true purchaser of these restricted laser sights even though the defendants themselves provided the funds for the purchase of these the restricted laser sights.
- q. In or about March 2010, Insight Technology, Inc. shipped these restricted laser sights to the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- r. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided several payments to Insight

  Technologies Inc., totaling more than \$25,000.
- s. After obtaining these restricted laser sights, RONALD D. SLUSSER sold via the internet some of these restricted laser sights to any willing purchaser.
- t. Approximately 20 of these restricted laser sights were returned to VAHAN KELERCHIAN by RONALD D. SLUSSER.

### Fourth Laser Sight Purchase

- u. In or about July 2010, RONALD D. SLUSSER ordered from Insight Technology,
   Inc., approximately 15 restricted laser sights from Insight Technology Inc., having
   a value of approximately \$18,000.
- v. On or about July 6, 2010, RONALD R. SLUSSER submitted to Insight

  Technology, Inc., an "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" which represented that

- USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 19 of 26
  - the restricted laser sights being purchased would "not be sold or transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian personnel."
  - w. In or about August 2010, Insight Technology, Inc. shipped these restricted laser sights and RONALD D. SLUSSER subsequently retrieved them.
  - x. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided payment to Insight
    Technologies Inc., in excess of \$16,000.
  - y. After obtaining these restricted laser sights, RONALD D. SLUSSER sold via the internet these restricted laser sights to any willing purchaser and sent two of the sights back to VAHAN KELERCHIAN.
  - z. On August of 2010, a Special Agent of the FDA engaged in an undercover purchase of a restricted laser sight from RONDAL D. SLUSSER. This restricted laser sight was purchased by RONALD D. SLUSSER from Insight Technology, Inc., for approximately \$1250.00 and sold to the FDA undercover agent for approximately \$2900.00. An examination of the serial number for this sight revealed that it was part of the July 2010 order of 15 restricted laser sights that had been ordered by RONALD D. SLUSSER and paid for by VAHAN KELERCHIAN.

All in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 371.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 20 of 26

### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

### COUNT 3

(Conspiracy to Make False Statements - Demonstration Letters)

From on or about October 2007, and continuing to in or about March 28, 2010, both dates being approximate and inclusive, in the Northern District of Indiana and elsewhere,

### VAHAN KELERCHIAN

defendant herein, and Joseph Kumstar, knowingly combined, conspired, confederated and agreed together and with each other, and with other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit the following offenses against the United States: to willfully and knowingly make and cause to be made, and use and cause to be used, in a matter within the jurisdiction of a department or agency of the United States, to wit: the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, false writings and documents to wit: approximately (7) letters on Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead requesting firearm demonstrations of machine guns (demonstration letters) from VAHAN KELERCHIAN, knowing the same to contain a materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statement because VAHAN KELERCHIAN very well knew that in fact no demonstration was going to occur.

In furtherance of this scheme, false demonstration letters were sent from Lake County Indiana, VAHAN KELERCHIAN and to the National Firearms Branch of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms located in Martinsburg, WV., on the following approximate days: October 4, 2007, February 13, 2009, February 16, 2009, June 29, 2009, March 28, 2010.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code Section 1001, and 371.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 21 of 26

### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

### COUNTS 4-7

(False Statements - Demonstration Letters)

On or about the following dates in the Northern District of Indiana and elsewhere,

### VAHAN KELERCHIAN

defendant herein, and Joseph Kumstar did willfully and knowingly make and cause to be made, and use and cause to be used, in a matter within the jurisdiction of a department or agency of the United States, to wit: the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, false writings and documents to wit: approximately (4) letters on Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead requesting firearm demonstrations of various machine guns (demonstration letters) from VAHAN KELERCHIAN, knowing the same to contain a materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statement because VAHAN KELERCHIAN very well knew that in fact no demonstration was going to occur, said letters being mailed from Lake County Indiana, to VAHAN KELERCHIAN in Pennsylvania and the the National Firearms Branch of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms located in Martinsburg, WV., on the following approximate days:

COUNT	<u>DATE</u>
4	February 13, 2009
5	February 16, 2009
6	June 29, 2009
7	March 28, 2010

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 and 2.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 22 of 26

### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

### **COUNT 8**

### (Bribery)

- At all times material to this indictment, the Lake County Sheriff's Department was an agency
  of a local government entity to wit: Lake County, Indiana, that received federal assistance in
  excess of \$10,000 during the one-year period beginning January 2, 2008 and ending
  December 31, 2008.
- Joseph Kumstar was an agent of Lake County Sheriff's Department acting as its Deputy
   Chief, in charge of operations, whose duties included overseeing and managing the Lake
   County Sheriff's Department.
- 3. On or about July 31, 2008, in the District of Indiana, and elsewhere,

### VAHAN KELERCHIAN

defendant herein, did corruptly give, offer, and agree to give a thing of value to wit: a

Remington .12 Gauge short-barrel shotgun, to Joseph Kumstar, intending to influence and
reward Joseph Kumstar in connection with a transaction and series of transactions of the

Lake County Sheriff's Department involving \$5,000 or more.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(2) and 2.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 23 of 26

### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

### COUNT 9

(Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments: 1956 and 1957)

Beginning in or about February 2009 and continuing through in or about January 2010, both dates being approximate and inclusive, in the District of Indiana and elsewhere,

### VAHAN KELECHIAN

Defendant herein, Joseph Kumstar, and Ronald Slusser, willfully and knowingly conspired and agreed together and with each other, and with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit certain offenses:

- 1) Under Title 18, United States Code § 1956, to conduct and attempt to conduct financial transactions affecting interstate commerce, which transactions involved proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is mail and wire fraud, in violation of title 18 United States Code § 1341 and 1343: (1) with the intent to promote the carrying on of such specified unlawful activity and (2) knowing that the transaction was designed in whole or in part to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds of said specified unlawful activity, and while conducting or attempting to conduct such financial transactions knew that the property involved in the financial transaction represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, and
- 2) Under Title 18, United States Code § 1957, to conduct and attempt to conduct monetary transactions affecting interstate commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 24 of 26 \$10,000, such property having been derived from a specified unlawful activity, that is, mail and wire fraud, in violation of Title 18 United States Code § 1341 and 1343.

All in violation of Title 18 United States Code 1956(h), 1956(a)(1)(B)(i), 1957, and 2.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 25 of 26

### FIRST FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

- 1. The allegations of Count One of the Indictment are realleged and by this reference fully incorporated herein for the purpose of alleging forfeitures to the United States of America pursuant to the provisions of Title 18 United States Code, Section 924(d), and Title 28 United States Code, Section 2461(c).
- 2. Upon conviction of Count One of the Indictment, Vahan Kelerchian, defendant herein, shall forfeit to the United States of America pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(d), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any and all firearms involved in the commission of such offenses:

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 26 of 26

### SECOND FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

- 1. The allegations contained in Count 9 of this Indictment are hereby re-alleged and incorporated by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 982(a)(1).
- 2. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), upon conviction of an offense in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956 and 1957, the defendant, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, shall forfeit to the United States of America any property, real or personal, involved in such offense, and any property traceable to such property.
- 3. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:
- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

the United States of America shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

A TRUE BILL:

S/Foreperson FOREPERSON

DAVID CAPP UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By: S/Philip C. Benson
Philip C. Benson
Assistant United States Attorney

### **Anthony Baiamonte III**

February 28, 2018

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

RE: Character Reference for Vahan Steven Kelerchian

Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges License or Permit number 8-23-017-01-5A-02276

Dear Sir/Madam:

I submit this Character Reference in support of, and granting relief to, Vahan Steven Kelerchian's Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges.

I have personally known Mr. Kelerchian for more than ten (10) years as a personal friend. He is of high moral character and has proven to be a trustworthy and honorable man. I am proud to call Mr. Kelerchian my friend.

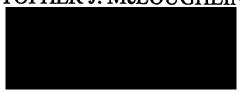
If you need any additional information, or have any questions of me in my support of Mr. Kelerchian, please contact me directly.

Thank you for your considerations. I remain,

Sincerely

By: /s/ Anthony Baiamonte III

### CHRISTOPHER J. McLOUGHLIN, PC



27 February 2018

Joshua Prince, Esq. Prince Law Offices, P.C. 646 Lenape Rd Bechtelsville, PA 19505

RE: Vahan Kelerchian

Mr. Prince:

This letter is addressed to you in support of Vahan Kelerchian's request to BATF regarding his application for Federal Firearms relief, and I authorize you to make it available to anyone appropriate to this use. As a retired security consultant, I was self-employed in the varied aspects of that field for more than a quarter of a century, and I supported myself without incident or reprimand of any sort for my professional career.

My association and friendship with Mr. Kelerchian goes back a decade, probably more. During these years his expertise with acquisition and disposition of firearms has been invaluable to me and to my own friends and clients. He has with authority given advice on investment grade firearms and guided us through a maze of rules and regulations in order to insure that no paperwork was returned for further attention due to an omission or misstatement of description or condition. Perhaps presenting an aggravation to buyers or sellers, I've known him to strictly avoid any transaction that might bend rules effecting administrative procedure or record keeping. His advice has been given and taken in matters ranging from simple transfers to elaborate evaluations of inventory distributions in the dissolutions of estate assets.

Over time I have come to know Mr. Kelerchian on a personal level as well as a professional one. Apart from knowing firearms and the business of them, he is comfortable with the history of U.S. military hardware, and not only that, he knows more about the colonial geography of his part of the country than I do about the Confederate history of mine. He's shared this knowledge with his wife and their two daughters on weekend outings and summer vacations away

Mr. Prince 27 February Page 02.

from his business. I know so because he's told me about them — in detail. He is a family man and takes pride in talking to me about his eldest daughter's passing her bar exam and her first date, just as he does about his youngest daughter's birthday party stories and the things that hold her interests. And when the time is right he and Maura take time together for a quick trip to New York, and I hear about that too. Vahan and I have become more than just business friends.

The business is operated meticulously and with an enviable sense of responsibility and attention to detail. Recently the business records underwent an intense scrutiny audit, and I understand that the books passed with praise and not the usual criticisms of form, content, or carelessness.

His business is the support of himself, his wife and their two daughters. I know of nothing that he might have knowingly done to put that in jeopardy and while he does not now operate the business himself, there should be no impediment to letting the business continue to function for their livelihood and well-being by granting him Federal Firearms relief.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHERY. McLOUGHLIN, PC

Chris MoLoughlin

(...\CJMcL LTR 2018\VK:ASI 27-02-18\CJMcL.PC)



February 25, 2018

RE: Vahan S. Kelerchian, Applicant

To Whom This May Concern,

My name is John T. Conway. I am a New York State Licensed Funeral Director. I am a United States Coast Guard Licensed Captain. I am 68 years old and am a college graduate. I have known Vahan Kelerchian since 1975, both on a personal level as well as on a professional level. I feel that I am a good judge of one's character and I can speak of Mr. Kelerchian in an honest and objective manner.

For many years my wife's family and his wife's family lived across the street from each other and both families were very close to each other. Coincidentally, when my wife and I bought our first house, it was two houses away from Mr. Kelerchian's family home. We could not have had better neighbors than the Kelerchians. Vahan and I saw each other almost on a daily basis. I know him well. I know him to be a straight and honest man, one who could be depended upon as a neighbor. He looked out for his family as well as his neighbors. He was definitely an asset to the neighborhood.

I know him to be a very good businessman and an even better family man. There is nothing more important to him than his family. I know him to be honest, perhaps to a fault. He is dependable and his word is as good as gold.

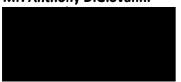
It is my sincere hope that his application be given a fair and objective review.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John T. Conway

Mr. Anthony DiGiovanni

February 23, 2018



U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Re: Kelerchian, Vahan, Steven

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my dear friend, Vahan Steven Kelerchian. I am a small business owner in Jackson Heights, NY. My family has owned and operated a delicatessen for more than 58 years. It's the quintessential neighborhood deli that everyone who went to school nearby patronized year after year, and many of our friends still live in the community. I grew up in the neighborhood, along with Vahan and his wife Maura, and we have been friends for more than 46 years. This is the place where we forged many of our lifelong friendships. During the many years that I have known Vahan, I can attest to the fact that he has always conducted himself with both honor and integrity, and he has always been very well respected in the community.

Vahan formerly operated a car repair shop not too far away from my business, and everyone with whom he came into contact had nothing but praise for him. He has always been kind, courteous, and willing to help anyone in need. Whether it was family members, friends, customers, or even strangers that were in need of assistance, he always offered help and never turned his back on anyone, no matter the circumstance. I can personally attest to this because I have witnessed his kindness on many occasions over the years. It is because of these attributes that Vahan was very successful in the auto repair business for many years. He ultimately moved to Pennsylvania in order to follow his lifelong passion of becoming a Federal Firearms dealer. There, along with Maura, he built another successful business with an impeccable record. For as long as I have known Vahan, he has always been driven to be the best at whatever pursuit he follows. Vahan is a man who values honesty, morality, and strong principles, and he has been a man of the utmost character in all the years that we have been friends. He is also a man who knows the importance of family, whereby he and Maura have raised two beautiful daughters and instilled within them the same core values. I have always held Vahan in the highest regard; I never had a brother, but he is as close to one that I could have ever found. We will always be friends and nothing can or will ever change that fact.

I am thankful for the opportunity to provide a testament on behalf of Vahan Kelerchian. I hope that my words have served to paint a clear picture of the man and friend that I have had the privilege to know and admire for almost the entirety of my life.

Sincerely,

**Anthony DiGiovanni** 

Gathony & Gioranni



# Case 2:20-cv-Q0253=WB L Document 31-1- Filed 08/Q3/22-1 Page 90 of 168

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

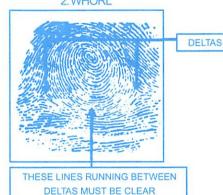
CJIS DIVISION/CLARKSBURG, WV 26306

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# CENTER OF LOOP DELTA

### 2. WHORL

THE LINES BETWEEN CENTER OF LOOP AND DELTA MUST SHOW



#### 3. ARCH



ARCHES HAVE NO DELTAS

FD-258 (REV. 3-1-10)

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE: 10/22/2015 12:51:47

### **APPLICANT**

#### THIS CARD FOR USE BY:

- 1 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN FINGERPRINTING APPLICANTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT POSITIONS \*
- 2. OFFICIALS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR PURPOSES OF EMPLOYMENT, LICENSING, AND

PERMITS AS AUTHORIZED BY STATE STATUTES AND APPROVED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE

UNITED STATES. LOCAL AND COUNTY ORDINANCES, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY BASED ON

APPLICABLE STATE STATUTES DO NOT SATISFY THIS REQUIREMENT.

- U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER ENTITIES REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW.\*\*
- 4. OFFICIALS OF FEDERALLY CHARTERED OR INSURED BANKING INSTITUTIONS TO PROMOTE OR MAINTAIN

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- Please review this helpful information to aid in the successful processing of hard copy criminal and civil fingerprint submissions in order to prevent delays or rejections. Hard copy fingerprint submissions must meet specific criteria for processing by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

  Ensure all information is typed or legibly printed using blue or black link.

  Enter data within the boundaries of the designated field or block.

  Complete all required fields. (If a required field is left blank, the fingerprint cards are: originating agency identifier number date of birth place of birth name sex fingerprint impressions any applicable state stamp Other (race, height, weight, ley color,
  - criminal fingerprint cards also require an arrest charge and date of arrest.
     civil fingerprint cards also require a reason fingerprinted and date fingerprinted.

Do not use highlighters on fingerprint cards.
Do not enter data or labels within "Leave Blank" areas.
Ensure the 'Reply Desired' fletd is checked when applicable (criminal only).
Ensure fingerprint impressions are rolled completely from nail to nail. Ensure Ingerprint Impressions are forther completely from fail to hair. Ensure fingerprint Impressions are in the correct sequence. Ensure notations are made for any missing fingerprint Impression (i.e. amputation). Do not use more than two retabs per fingerprint impression block. Ensure no stray marks are within the fingerprint impression blocks.

Training aids can be ordered online via the Internet by accessing the FBI's website at: fbi.gov, click on 'Fingerprints', then click on 'Ordering Fingerprint Cards & Training Aids'. Direct questions to the Identification and Investigative Services Section's Customer Service Group at (304) 625-5590 or by e-mail at liaison@leo.gov>

#### PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authority: The FBI's acquisition, preservation, and exchange of information requested by this form is generally authorized under 28 U.S.C. 534. Depending on the nature of your application, supplemental authorities include numerous Federal statutes, hundreds of State statutes pursuant to Pub.L. 92-544. Presidential executive orders, regulations and/or orders of the Attorney General of the United States, or other authorized authorities. Examples include, but are not limited to: 5 U.S.C. 9101; Pub.L. 101-604; and Executive Orders 10450 and 12968. Providing the requested information is voluntary; however, failure to furnish the information may affect timely completion or approval of your application

Social Security Account Number (SSAN). Your SSAN is needed to keep records accurate because other people may have the same name and birth date. Pursuant to the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a), the requesting agency is responsible for informing you whether disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by what statutory or other authority your SSAN is solicited, and what uses will be made of it. Executive Order 9397 also asks Federal agencies to use this number to help identify individuals in agency records.

Principal Purpose: Certain determinations, such as employment, security, licensing, and adoption, may be predicated on fingerprint-based checks. Your fingerprints and other information contained on (and along with) this form may be submitted to the requestive agency, the agency conducting the application investigation, and/or FBI for the purpose of comparing the submitted information to available records in order to identify other information that may be perfuent to the application. During the processing of this application, and for as long hereafter as may be relevant to the activity for which this application is being submitted, the FBI may disclose any potentially pertinent information to the requesting agency and/or to the agency conducting the investigation. The FBI may also retain the submitted information, the FBI's permanent collection of fingerprints and related information, where it will be subject to comparisons against other submissions received by the FBI. Depending on the nature of your application, the requesting agency and/or the agency conducting the application investigation may also retain the fingerprints and nitted information for other authorized purposes of such agency(ies).

Routine Uses: The fingerprints and information reported on this form may be disclosed pursuant to your consent, and may also be disclosed by the FBI without your consent as permitted by the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a(b)) and all applicable routine uses as may be published at any time in the Federal Register, including the routine uses for the FBI Fingerprint identification Records System (Justice/FBI-09) and the FBI's Blanket Routine Uses (Justice/FBI-BRU). Routine uses include, but are not limited to, disclosures to: appropriate governmental authorities responsible for civil or criminal law enforcement, counterintelligence, national security or public safety matters to which the information may be relevant; to State and local governmental agencies and nongovernmental entitles for application processing as authorized by Federal and State legislation, executive order, or regulation, including employment, security, library adoption chesics, and as otherwise authorized by Jaw, treats involved in processing this application, they may have

Additional Information: The requesting agency and/or the agency conducting the application-investigation will provide you additional information pertinent to the specific circumstances of this application, which may include identification of other authorities, purposes, uses, and consequences of not providing requested information. In addition, any such agency in the Federal Executive Branch has also published notice in the Federal Register describing any system(s) of records in which that agency may also maintain your records, including the authorities, purposes, and routine uses for the system(s).

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. PRINTS MUST GENERALLY BE CHECKED THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE STATE IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, AND ONLY THOSE FINGERPRINTS FOR WHICH NO DISQUALIFYING RECORD HAS BEEN FOUND LOCALLY SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR FBI SEARCH.
- IDENTITY OF PRIVATE CONTRACTORS SHOULD BE SHOWN IN SPACE "EMPLOYER AND ADDRESS". THE CONTRIBUTOR IS THE NAME OF THE AGENCY SUBMITTING THE FINGERPRINT CARD TO THE FBI.
- 3. FBI NUMBER, IF KNOWN, SHOULD ALWAYS BE FURNISHED IN THE APPROPRIATE SPACE.
- \*\* MISCELLANEOUS NO. RECORD: OTHER ARMED FORCES NO. PASSPORT NO. [FP], ALIEN REGISTRATION NO. (AR), PORT SECURITY CARD NO. (PS), SELECTIVE SERVICE NO. (SS) VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION CLAIM NO. (VA).

# Exhibit E



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Scheduled Delivery by

TUESDAY

MARCH 2018 (i) by 12:00pm (i)



March 7, 2018 at 5:38 am Delivered WASHINGTON, DC 20226

### **Proof of Delivery**



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1 of 3 1/3/20, 1:29 PM

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*Indicates a required field
*First Name M.I. *Last Name
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*Email Proof of Delivery to up to three addresses
email123@mail.com
Add Another Email +
Request Email
Tracking History
March 7, 2018, 5:38 am Delivered WASHINGTON, DC 20226 Your item was delivered at 5:38 am on March 7, 2018 in WASHINGTON, DC 20226 to ATF 20226 PU. The item was signed for by E ANDERSON.
March 6, 2018, 10:46 am Available for Pickup WASHINGTON, DC 20226
March 6, 2018, 10:28 am Arrived at Post Office WASHINGTON, DC 20018
March 6, 2018, 5:30 am  Departed USPS Regional Facility  LEHIGH VALLEY PA DISTRIBUTION CENTER

March 5, 2018, 7:40 pm

2 of 3

### See Less ∧

Feedback

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### **FAQs**

3 of 3

# Exhibit F



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**Scheduled Delivery by** 

**TUESDAY** 

MARCH 2018 (i) by 12:00pm (i)



March 6, 2018 at 10:52 am Delivered PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

**Proof of Delivery** 

**Tracking History** 

March 6, 2018, 10:52 am

Delivered

1 of 3 1/3/20, 1:36 PM

### PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

Your item was delivered at 10:52 am on March 6, 2018 in PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106. Waiver of signature was exercised at time of delivery.

### March 6, 2018, 6:00 am

Arrived at Post Office PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104

### March 6, 2018, 12:59 am

Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
PHILADELPHIA PA DISTRIBUTION CENTER

### March 5, 2018, 7:40 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
LEHIGH VALLEY PA DISTRIBUTION CENTER

### March 5, 2018, 4:30 pm

Departed Post Office BARTO, PA 19504

### March 5, 2018, 3:15 pm

USPS in possession of item BARTO, PA 19504

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2 of 3

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# Exhibit G



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FAQs >

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(https://reg.usps.com

/xsell?app=UspsTools&ref=ho\_nepageBanner&appURL=https%3A%2F%2Finformeddelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action)

Tracking Number: EL731611430US

Remove X

**Scheduled Delivery by** 

**TUESDAY** 

MARCH 2018 (i) by 12:00pm (i)



March 6, 2018 at 10:45 am Delivered HUNTSVILLE, AL 35898

**Proof of Delivery** 

**Tracking History** 

March 6, 2018, 10:45 am

Delivered

1 of 3 1/3/20, 1:39 PM Your item was delivered at 10:45 am on March 6, 2018 in HUNTSVILLE, AL 35898 to CENTRAL MAIL. The item was signed for by B MOORE.

### March 6, 2018, 10:43 am

Available for Pickup HUNTSVILLE, AL 35898

### March 6, 2018, 10:43 am

Arrived at Post Office HUNTSVILLE, AL 35808

### March 6, 2018, 8:51 am

Arrived at USPS Regional Destination Facility HUNTSVILLE AL DISTRIBUTION CENTER

### March 6, 2018, 5:30 am

Departed USPS Regional Facility
LEHIGH VALLEY PA DISTRIBUTION CENTER

### March 5, 2018, 7:40 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility
LEHIGH VALLEY PA DISTRIBUTION CENTER

### March 5, 2018, 4:30 pm

Departed Post Office BARTO, PA 19504

### March 5, 2018, 3:14 pm

USPS in possession of item BARTO, PA 19504

### **Product Information**

**\** 

Feedbac

2 of 3

1/3/20, 1:39 PM

### See Less ∧

### Can't find what you're looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

**FAQs** 

Feedback

3 of 3

# Exhibit H

RECTO 127 3 2018 37012

DH



### U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Washington, DC 20226

www.atf.gov

March 27, 2018

752220: NRL

3320

Joshua Prince 646 Lenape Road Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania 19505

Dear Mr. Prince:

This is in response to your submission to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) of an application for firearms relief from disabilities for Mr. Vahan Kelerchian.

Although Federal law provides a means for the relief of firearms disabilities, since October 1992, ATF's annual appropriation has prohibited the expending of any funds to investigate or act upon applications for relief from Federal firearms disabilities submitted by individuals. Accordingly, ATF cannot act upon these applications.

Since ATF cannot act upon applications for relief from Federal firearms disabilities submitted by individuals, Mr. Kelerchian's application is being returned unprocessed. Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Digitally signed by Kenneth C. Torres

) Date: 2018.03.27 16:25:22

-05'00'

John R. Day Chief, Explosives

**Enforcement and Training Division** 

# Case 2:20-cv-00253-WB Document 31-1 Filed 08/03/22 Page 107 of 168

# PRINCE LAW OFFICES, P.C.



Warren H. Prince Karl P. Voigt IV Joshua Prince Eric E. Winter Thomas H. Odom Stanley J. Kuter Jeffrey A Franklin Adam J. Kraut Jorge Pereira Bechtelsville 1-610-845-3803 Allentown 1-610-770-1151 Bethlehem 1-610-814-0838 Camp Hill 1-717-731-0100 Lancaster 1-717-393-7002 Lebanon 1-717-274-9250 North Wales 1-215-412-0800 Pottstown 1-610-326-4200 Pottsville 1-570-621-8828 Reading 1-610-375-8425 Toll Free 1-888-313-0416 Fax 1-610-845-3903

March 02, 2018

U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Attention Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives NCETR - Relief of Disabilities Section

Corporal Road, Building 3750, Redstone Arsenal Huntsville, AL 35898

RE: Vahan Kelerchian Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges FFL # 8-23-017-01-5A-02276

Dear Acting Director Brandon, DIO Orellana and ladies and gentlemen of the NCETR,

Please be advised that I have been retained by Vahan Kelerchian, FFL no. 8-23-017-01-5A-02276, in relation to his timely Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. 478.144. As there is conflicting information between the information contained in the enclosed executed Applications and 27 C.F.R. 478.144, Mr. Kelerchian is filing this form in compliance with both the instructions on the application and Section 478.144.

Specifically, as Section 478.144 requires three copies of the application to be filed with the Director, as defined in 27 C.F.R. § 478.11, but the application instructions only require one copy to be filed with NCETR, please find enclosed three copies of the executed Applications, which are being served on Acting Director Brandon, NCETR, and Phialdelphia Director of Industry Operations Juan Orellana. Please also find enclosed one copy of (1) an Authority for Release of Information, (2) Mr. Kelerchian's court documents, including the Indictment and Amended Judgement, (3) four letters of recommendation from references, who are not related to Mr. Kelerchian by blood or marriage and have known him for at least 3 years, and (4) a completed FD 258 fingerprint card.

Pursuant to Sections 925(c) and 478.144(i), as Mr. Kelerchian is an FFL holder, who has continually and timely renewed his FFL, he shall not be "barred by such disability from further operations under his license pending final action on an application for relief filed pursuant to this section."

### Case 2:20-cv-00253-WB Document 31-1 Filed 08/03/22 Page 108 of 168

Thanking you for your time and consideration in Mr. Kelerchian's request, I am

Yours truly, Prince Law Offices, P.C.

Joshua Prince

joshua@princelaw.com

Extension: 81114

jp/web Matter no. 37012 Enclosure

Distribution

U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Thomas E. Brandon Mr. Juan F. Orellana

OMB No. 1140-0002

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

# **Application for Restoration of Firearms** Privileges

1. Name (Last, First, Middle)			-				
	Kelerchian, Vahan, St		····		1		
2. Birthplace (City & State)  New York City,	NY 3. Date of Birth	4. Aliases			5. Soci	al Security	Number <i>(Voluntary)</i>
6. Present Address (No., Street,	City, State, Zip Code)				7. Tele	phone Num	ber
8. Description							
Sex M							
Ethnicity Ra	ice (Check one or more boxes)	<u>.                                    </u>				1	
Hispanic or Latino American Indian or Alaska Native Black or African American White							
Not Hispanic or Latino	Asian	L	Native Ha	waiian or Other Pacific	Islander		
	ne United States, what is your IN						<del></del>
10. Residences During Past Ten	Years (In columns (b) and (c) en			residence.)			
	Address (Number, Street, City,	State and Zip Co	ode)			From (b)	To (c)
						1997	Present
11. Employment Record (List )	present and prior employers and	show month and	year of emp	loyment.)			
Name a	Name and Address of Employer Position (a) (b)					From (c)	To (d)
Armament Services, Inc.	103 Camars Dr. Warminst	er PA 18974		President		2000	2013
12. Convictions (If pardoned for	or a conviction, write "yes" in co	lumn (e) and atto	ich a copy e	of the pardon.)	·		
Specific Crime (a)	Name and Loc			Sentence Received (c)		ion Date d)	Pardoned (e)
See attached court reco	ords						
					*		
13. Other Arrests							
Charge (a)		Date and Pla				D	isposition (c)
None							
			_				
14. Probation Officer's Name, A	Address and Telephone Number		15. Parole	Officer's Name, Addre	ss and Te	lephone Nur	nber
N/A			N/A			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

16. Character References (Three references are required. Please applicant by blood or marriage and have known applicant for						lated to th	e	
Name and Address (a)				Occupa (b)		Telephon (	c Nun	nber
John T. Conway,				Funeral Dir	rector			
Anthony Baiamonte III,				Attorney				
				Retired				
Christopher J. McLoughlin,  17. Applicant Data (All questions must be answered by a "Yes"	or "No	o")		neureu				<b></b>
	Yes	No					Yes	No
a. Are you a fugitive from justice?		х	h. Have you served on acti			U (II		Х
b. Are you an unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana, or any depressant, stimulant, or narcotic drug, or any other		X	"yes" check Branch and		_	Coast		^
controlled substance?		Λ	Army   Navy	Marines	Force_	Guard		
c. Have you ever been convicted in any court of a felony, or	Х		Scrvice Serial Number		Date Entered	Active Du	ity	
any other crime, for which the judge could have imprisoned you for more than one year, even if you received a shorter	^							<u></u>
sentence, including probation? (If "yes," see Additional			Kind of Discharge		Date of Discl	harge		
Information Request 1.)				·····	<u> </u>			<u> </u>
d. Are you now on probation or parole?		X	1			}	Yes_	No
e. Are you under indictment or information in any court for a		一 一	i. Are you subject to a c harassing, stalking, or t					X
felony, or any other crime, for which the judge could	X		partner or child of such					
imprison you for more than one year? (An information is a formal accusation of a crime by a prosecutor.) (If "yes,"			Information Request 5.)					
see Additional Information Request 2.)			. Have you been convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence? (If "yes," see Additional Infor-				V	
	ļ		mation Request 6.)	nce? (ij "yes,"	see Additiona	ai injor-		X
f. Have you ever been adjudicated mentally defective (which includes having been adjudicated incompetent to manage		X	k. Have you ever renounc	ed your United	States citizen	ship?		1
your own affairs) or have you been committed to a mental			(If "yes," see Additiona	l Information R	Request 7.)			X
institution? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 3.)			1. Are you an alien in the	United States?	(If "ves" see			-
3.,			Additional Information		(1) 100, 000			X
g. Have you ever been discharged from the armed forces under dishonorable conditions? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 4.)		Х	m. Have you ever applied federal explosives licenary and with whom filed.)			X		
18. COMPLETE THIS ITEM ONLY IF APPLICANT WAS EVER ISS	SUED A	FEDE	1	R A FEDERAL	EXPLOSIVES	LICENSE (	OR PER	RMIT.
Business Name and Address (License/Permit Issued Under)			License or Permit N	lumber	Expiration Da	ate of Late	st Lice	ense or
Vohan C. Kalarahian			8-23-017-01-	EA 00076	Permit			
Vahan S. Kelerchian			0-23-017-01-	DA-UZZI 0	LOA Ex	(p. 08/	07/2	2018
The Business is (Check one)			A Corporation		rg			
Individually Owned A Partnership  19a. I believe I should be granted relief because:		<u></u>	A Corporation	Other (	Specify)			
I am a good person, who has never acted nor will act in a m contrary to the public interest. Moreover, I am not a threat to Furthermore, my FFL records have always been maintained	the po metic	ublic ir ulousl	n purchasing, possessing, y and even the IOIs comm	transferring or ented on my re	selling firearr ecordkeeping	ns and ar complian	nmuni ce.	ition.
19b. Important: Applicants filing for restoration privileges (Rei								
No application for restoration under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 44 will 1 appear in the Federal Register, an official U.S. Government pub of approval will give all essential details including the applicant	lication	ı avail:	able to the general public, if	and when the				
IN THE EVENT THIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED:		•						
I understand that a notice of approval will appear in the Fe	deral F	Registe	r immediately following the	issuance of the	approval, and	l		
I hereby agree to publication of the notice of approval giv	ing my	namc	, address and the date of my	conviction.				
Under penalties imposed by 18 U.S.C. 924, I declare under pe	nalties	of pe	rjury, that the answers in t	his application	are true, cor	rect, and	comple	ete.
20. Signer of Applicant & Reven					21. Date	3/2/18	3	
Note: A Completed FD 258 (Fing	erprint	Ident	ification Card) Must Accor	npany This Ap	plication.			
Mail Application Form To	<b>D:</b>		reau of Alcohol, Tobacco,		Explosives			
			CETR - Relief of Disabilitic orporal Road, Building 375					
		Re	edstone Arsenal					
		111	untsville, AL 35898					

OMB No. 1140-0002

U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

# Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges

1. Name (Last, First, Middle		Value Otavan						
2. Birthplace (City & State)		, Vahan, Steven	<del></del>		5. Soci	al Security	Number (Voluntary)	
New York City		N/A				<b>,</b>	,	
6. Present Address (No., Stre	ect, City, State, Zip	Code)			7. Tele	phone Num	ber	
8. Description								
Sex M	Height 6'2"	Weight 280		Hair <b>Brown</b>		Eyes Brow	n	
Ethnicity	Race (Check one		· · · · · ·			10.00		
Hispanic or Latino	American Inc	dian or Alaska Native	Black or A	African American		White		
Not Hispanic or Latino	Asian		Native Ha	waiian or Other Pacific	c Islander			
9. If you are not a citizen o	f the United States,	, what is your INS-issued alien n	mber or adn	nission number?	<del></del>			
10. Residences During Past T	en Years (In colum	nns (b) and (c) enter the months	and years of	residence.)				
	Address (Nui	nber, Street, City, State and Zip ( (a)	Code)			From (b)	To (c)	
					1	1997	Present	
		r employers and show month and	year of emp			P	To	
Nam	e and Address of i	Employer		Position (b)		From (c)	To (d)	
Armament Services, In	c. 103 Camars	Dr. Warminster PA 18974		President		2000 20		
			<u> </u>					
Specific Crime	f for a conviction,	write "yes" in column (e) and at  Name and Location of Court	acn a copy of	Sentence Received	Convict	ion Date	Pardoned	
(a)		(b)		(c)	(6	d)	(e)	
See attached court re	cords							
							·	
13. Other Arrests								
Charge (a)			ace of Arrest	t		D	isposition (c)	
None								
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
14. Probation Officer's Name	e, Address and Tele	ephone Number		Officer's Name, Addre	ess and Tel	ephone Nu	mber	
N/A			N/A					

16. Character References (Three references are required. Please applicant by blood or marriage and have known applicant for						related to th	le .	
Name and Address (a)				Occupa		Telephor	ic Nun (c)	nber
John T. Conway,				Funeral Dir				
Anthony Baiamonte III,				Attorney				
Christopher J. McLoughlin,  17. Applicant Data (All questions must be answered by a "Yes"	or "No	o")		Retired				
	Yes	No					Yes	No
a. Are you a fugitive from justice?		X	h. Have you served on acti "yes" check Branch and			s? <i>(If</i>		x
b. Are you an unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana, or any depressant, stimulant, or narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?		X	Army Navy	· · · —	Air [	Coast Guard		
c. Have you ever been convicted in any court of a felony, or	Х		Scrvice Serial Number		Date Entere	d Active D	uty	
any other crime, for which the judge could have imprisoned you for more than one year, even if you received a shorter sentence, including probation? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 1.)			Kind of Discharge		Date of Dis	e of Discharge		
d. Are you now on probation or parole?	<u> </u>	X					Ycs	No
e. Are you under indictment or information in any court for a felony, or any other crime, for which the judge could imprison you for more than one year? (An information is a	X		<ul> <li>Are you subject to a c harassing, stalking, or t partner or child of such Information Request 5.)</li> </ul>	hreatening your partner? (If "	child or an	intimate		X
formal accusation of a crime by a prosecutor.) (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 2.)			j. Have you been convicte crime of domestic viole mation Request 6.)				X	
f. Have you ever been adjudicated mentally defective (which includes having been adjudicated incompetent to manage your own affairs) or have you been committed to a mental institution? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request		X	k. Have you ever renounc	Have you ever renounced your United State (If "yes," see Additional Information Requi				X
3.)			I. Are you an alien in the Additional Information	(If "yes," see	e		Х	
g. Have you ever been discharged from the armed forces under dishonorable conditions? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 4.)		х	M. Have you ever applied for a federal firearms license or a federal explosives license or Permit? (If "yes" show date and with whom filed.)					
18. COMPLETE THIS ITEM ONLY IF APPLICANT WAS EVER ISS	SUED A	FEDE						
Business Name and Address (License/Permit Issued Under)			License or Permit N	lumber	Expiration I Permit	Date of Late	est Lice	ense or
Vahan S. Kelerchian			8-23-017-01-	5A-02276	LOA E	xp. 08	07/2	2018
The Business is (Check one)  Individually Owned  A Partnership			A Corporation	Other (	Specify)			
19a. I believe I should be granted relief because:			71 Corporation		opecijy) -			
I am a good person, who has never acted nor will act in a modern contrary to the public interest. Moreover, I am not a threat to Furthermore, my FFL records have always been maintained	the pu metic	ublic ir ulously	n purchasing, possessing, y and even the IOIs comm	transferring or ented on my re	selling firea ecordkeepin	rms and a g compliar	mmuni 10e.	ition.
19b. Important: Applicants filing for restoration privileges (Rel			<u>.</u>			<u>-</u>		
No application for restoration under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 44 will be appear in the Federal Register, an official U.S. Government pub of approval will give all essential details including the applicant	lication	availa	able to the general public, if	and when the				
IN THE EVENT THIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED:	J		- idi	: C.4L-				
I understand that a notice of approval will appear in the Fe		-	•		approvai, ai	nd 		
Under penalties imposed by 18 U.S.C. 924, I declare under pe	nalties	of per	rjury, that the answers in t	his application	are true, co	rrect, and	comple	ete.
20. Signature of Applicant & Revolu-					21. Da	3/2/18	3	
		Ident	ification Card) Must Accor	npany This Ap	plication.			
Mail Application Form To	Note: A Completed FD 258 (Fingerprint Identification Card) Must Accompany This Application.  Mail Application Form To:  Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  NCETR - Relief of Disabilities Section  Corporal Road, Building 3750  Redstone Arsenal  Huntsville, AL 35898							

OMB No. 1140-0002

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

# **Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges**

1. Name (Last, First, Middle)	Kelerchian, Vahan, Ste	even						
2. Birthplace (City & State)  New York City,	NY 3. Date of Birth	4. Aliases			5. Socia	al Security	Number (Voluntary)	
6. Present Address (No., Street					7. Tele	ohone Numi	per	
8. Description	<del></del>							
Sex M		Weight 280		Hair Brown		Eyes Browi	า	
	Race (Check one or more boxes)							
Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaska Nat	ive	Black or Afi	rican American		White		
Not Hispanic or Latino	Asian		Native Hawa	iian or Other Pacific	lslander			
9. If you are not a citizen of	the United States, what is your INS	-issued alien num	ber or admis	sion number?				
10. Residences During Past Ter	Years (In columns (b) and (c) ent	er the months and	d years of re	sidence.)				
	Address (Number, Street, City, .	State and Zip Coo	ie)			From (b)	To (c)	
					1	1997	Present	
							, <u></u>	
11. Employment Record (List	present and prior employers and s	how month and ye	ear of emplo	yment.)				
Name	and Address of Employer (a)			Position (b)		From To ( <i>d</i> )		
Armament Services, Inc	. 103 Camars Dr. Warminste	er PA 18974	F	President		2000 2013		
				<del></del>				
12. Convictions (If pardoned)	for a conviction, write "yes" in col	umn (e) and attac	h a copy of	the pardon.)	! !			
Specific Crime (a)	Name and Loca		S	Sentence Received (c)		ion Date	Pardoned (e)	
See attached court rec					<u></u>			
13. Other Arrests								
Charge <i>(a)</i>		Date and Place				D	isposition <i>(c)</i>	
None			<u>.</u> .					
	1							
				<u> </u>				
					· ·			
14. Probation Officer's Name,	Address and Telephone Number	1	5. Parole Of	fficer's Name, Addre	ess and Tel	ephone Nun	nber	
N/A		1	N/A					

16. Character References (Three references are required. Please applicant by blood or marriage and have known applicant for			,	•		he		
Name and Address (a)				Occupa (b)		ne Nur	nber	
John T. Conway,				Funeral Dir	rector			
Anthony Baiamonte III,				Attorney				
Christopher J. McLoughlin,				Retired				
17. Applicant Data (All questions must be answered by a "Yes"	or "No	<b>"</b> )		Tiomod				
	Yes	No			1.0 0.00	Yes	No	
a. Are you a fugitive from justice?      b. Are you an unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana, or		X	h. Have you served on acti "yes" check Branch and				X	
any depressant, stimulant, or narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?		X	Army Navy		Air Coast Force Guard			
c. Have you ever been convicted in any court of a felony, or	Х		Scrvice Serial Number		Date Entered Active D	Outy		
any other crime, for which the judge could have imprisoned you for more than one year, even if you received a shorter	^`		Kind of Discharge		Date of Discharge			
sentence, including probation? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 1.)			Kind of Discharge		Date of Discharge			
d. Are you now on probation or parole?		×				Yes	No	
e. Are you under indictment or information in any court for a		<del>  ^</del>	i. Are you subject to a c harassing, stalking, or t				X	
felony, or any other crime, for which the judge could imprison you for more than one year? (An information is a	X		partner or child of such Information Request 5.)	partner? (If				
formal accusation of a crime by a prosecutor.) (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 2.)				lave you been convicted in any court of a misdemeanor			1	
	ļ		crime of domestic viole mation Request 6.)	nce? (If "yes."	' see Additional Infor-		X	
f. Have you ever been adjudicated mentally defective (which includes having been adjudicated incompetent to manage		X	k. Have you ever renounc			<del>                                     </del>	1	
your own affairs) or have you been committed to a mental			(If "yes," see Additiona	l Information F	Request 7.)		X	
institution? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 3.)	:		I. Are you an alien in the		(If "yes," see	1	X	
			Additional Information			—	^_	
g. Have you ever been discharged from the armed forces under dishonorable conditions? (If "yes," see Additional Information Request 4.)		X	m. Have you ever applied for a federal firearms license or a federal explosives license or Permit? (If "yes" show date and with whom filed.)					
18. COMPLETE THIS ITEM ONLY IF APPLICANT WAS EVER ISS	SUED A	FEDE	RAL FIREARMS LICENSE O	R A FEDERAL	EXPLOSIVES LICENSE	OR PE	RMIT.	
Business Name and Address (License/Permit Issued Under)			License or Permit N	lumber	Expiration Date of La	test Lic	ense or	
Vahan S. Kelerchian			8-23-017-01-	5A-02276	LOA Exp. 08	/07/	2018	
The Business is (Check one)								
Individually Owned A Partnership			A Corporation	Other (	Specify)			
<ul><li>19a. I believe I should be granted relief because:</li><li>I am a good person, who has never acted nor will act in a m</li></ul>	anner	danne	rous to public safety and t	he granting of	the relief to me would	not be		
contrary to the public interest. Moreover, I am not a threat to Furthermore, my FFL records have always been maintained	the p	ublic ir	purchasing, possessing,	transferring or	selling firearms and a	mmun		
19b. Important: Applicants filing for restoration privileges (Rel	ief Ero	m Divo	hilities under Chanter 44	Title 18 II S.C. (	025(c) must complete th	nic itom		
No application for restoration under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 44 will be								
appear in the Federal Register, an official U.S. Government pub of approval will give all essential details including the applicant	lication	availa	ible to the general public, if	and when the				
IN THE EVENT THIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED:								
I understand that a notice of approval will appear in the Fe	deral R	Registe	r immediately following the	issuance of the	approval, and			
I hereby agree to publication of the notice of approval giv	ing my	name,	address and the date of my	conviction.				
Under penalties imposed by 18 U.S.C. 924, I declare under pe	nalties	of per	rjury, that the answers in t	his application	are true, correct, and	compl	etc.	
20. Signal to of Applicant & Revely				-	21. Date 3/2/1	8		
Note: A Completed FD 258 (Fing	erprint	Ident	ification Card) Must Accor	npany This Ap	plication.			
Mail Application Form To	D:		reau of Alcohol, Tobacco,		Explosives			
		_	CETR - Relief of Disabilitie Prporal Road, Building 375					
			dstone Arsenal					

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

# **Authority for Release of Information**

#### Authority for Release of Information

THIS SHEET MUST ACCOMPANY ALL COPIES OF ATF FORM 3210.1, APPLICATION FOR RESTORATION OF FIREARMS PRIVILEGES

- 1. Authority. The authority to solicit information is stated in ATF Form 3210.1, Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges. This form is in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974.
- 2. Purpose and Use. The information you supply by signing this release of information form will be used principally to aid in the completion of a background investigation conducted by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(c), in conjunction with your Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges.
- 3. Effects of Nondisclosure. Your signature on this Authority for Release of Information form is voluntary; however, your failure to complete this form

may mean that the required information cannot be obtain	ned to complete y	your investigation, and may result in	the tern	nination of your application.		
Name of Applicant (Include Last, First, and Middle Name a	nd all aliases use	d)		Date of Birth		
Kelerchian, Vahan, Steven						
Present Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code)				Telephone Number (Include Area		
				Code)		
This release, when presented by a duly authorized repres and obtain copies and abstracts of records and to receive release of the following data or records to the Departmen Employment Information, Military Information/Records,	statements and at of Justice (AT	information regarding my backgro F):				
If You Answered "Yes" to Item		rmation Records ATF Form 3210.1, Complete the Fo	llowing !	Section.		
Name of Attending Physicians, Alcohol or Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Centers, or Mental Health Institutions	(Includi	Address ing City, State and Zip Code)		Area Code and Telephone Number		
			9			
		•				
Signature of Applicant	Date 3/2/18	Special Agent (Signature)		Date		

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 1 of 8

#### **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** 

Plaintiff,

**CASE NUMBER: 2:13CR66-001** 

**USM Number: 12810-027** 

VS.

**VAHAN KELERCHIAN** 

**KERRY C CONNOR** 

P. JEFFREY SCHLESINGER **DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEYS** 

Defendant.

## AMENDED JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

Date of Original Judgment Order: 2/7/2018.

Amended on 2/12/2018 to correct administrative error on page 3, under C.R. 35(a): 2-7 is

replaced by 3-7.

THE DEFENDANT was found guilty by Jury on counts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 of the Indictment on October 15, 2015.

ACCORDINGLY, the court has adjudicated that the defendant is guilty of the following offenses: Count

	Title, Section & Nature of Offense	Date Offense Ended	Number(s)
!	18: 371 CONSPIRACY TO PROVIDE FALSE INFORMATION TO A FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE	January 2010	1
	18:371 CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION	September 2010	2
	18:371 CONSPIRACY TO MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS - DEMONSTRATION LETTERS	March 28, 2010	3
	18:1001 MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO A FEDERAL AGENCY	March 28, 2010	4-7
	18:1956(h) CONSIPRACY TO LAUNDER MONETARY INSTRUMENTS AND FORFEITURE	January 2010	9

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 8 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. The defendant has been found not guilty on count 8.

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant must notify the United States Attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant must notify the court and United States Attorney of any material change in economic circumstances.

February 5, 2018

Date of Imposition of Judgment

# Case 2:20-cv-00253-WB Document 31-1 Filed 08/03/22 Page 117 of 168

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 2 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 2 of 8

s/ Joseph S. Van Bokkelen
Signature of Judge
Joseph S. Van Bokkelen, United States District Judge
Name and Title of Judge
February 12, 2018

Date

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 3 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 3 of 8

#### **IMPRISONMENT**

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of **100 months**.

- \* 60-month term as to each of the following counts: Count 1, Count 3, Count 4, Count 5, Count 6, and Count 7. Each 60-month term for this group of counts is to be served concurrently with the other counts in this group.
- \* A 60-month term as to Count 2: 40 of those months are to be served consecutively as to Count 1 and Counts 3–7, and 20 of those months are to be served concurrently with Count 1 and Counts 3–7.
- \* A 40-month sentence as to Count 9, to be served consecutively as to Count 1 and Counts 3–7, but concurrently with Count 2.

The Court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:

That the defendant be designated to serve his sentence at Fort Dix, NJ.

That the defendant be given credit for time served while awaiting sentencing.

The defendant is placed into the custody of the United States Marshal.

I have executed this judgment as follows:			
Defendant deliveredwith a certified copy of this judgment.	to	at	·•
	_	UNITED STATES N	MARSHAL
	By: DEP	UTY UNITED STATES N	/ARSHAL

RETURN

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 4 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 4 of 8

#### **SUPERVISED RELEASE**

After Mr. Kelerchian's incarceration is over, Mr. Kelerchian will be placed on supervised release for a period of **1 year**. His supervised release will have conditions of supervision as stated below, except that conditions 19, 20, 21 and 22 will cease to be in effect once all of Mr. Kelerchian's financial obligations as related to this case are fulfilled.

- 1. Mr. Kelerchian may not commit another federal, state, or local crime.
- 2. Mr. Kelerchian may not unlawfully use, possess, or distribute a controlled substance.
- 3. There's no evidence that Mr. Kelerchian is in danger of drug abuse. Accordingly, the mandatory drug testing condition is suspended.
- 4. Mr. Kelerchian must cooperate in the collection of his DNA sample as directed by the probation officer if the collection of such a sample is authorized pursuant to section 3 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000.
- 5. Within 72 hours of release from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, Mr. Kelerchian must report between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to the probation office in the district to which he is released.
- 6. Mr. Kelerchian may not knowingly be outside the judicial district between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. without the Court's or probation officer's permission. In any case, Mr. Kelerchian may not knowingly travel more than 50 miles outside the judicial district without the Court's or probation officer's permission. The probation office will provide Mr. Kelerchian a map describing the boundaries of the judicial district at the start of supervision. After 12 months of Mr. Kelerchian being placed on supervision, the probation office must submit a report to the Court indicating whether the travel restrictions should be lifted or modified.
- 7. Mr. Kelerchian must report to the probation officer in the manner and frequency as reasonably directed by the probation officer. However, he may be required to report in person at the probation office only between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on the days the probation office is open for business.
- 8. In all matters relating to his conditions of supervision, Mr. Kelerchian must truthfully answer the probation officer's questions. This condition does not prevent Mr. Kelerchian from invoking his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.
- 9. Mr. Kelerchian must follow the instructions of the probation officer as they relate to the conditions of supervision. Mr. Kelerchian may petition the Court for relief or clarification regarding a condition he believes has become unreasonable.
- 10. Mr. Kelerchian must live at a location approved by the probation officer.
- 11. If Mr. Kelerchian plans to change where he lives or anything about his living

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 5 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 5 of 8

arrangements (for example, the people he lives with), he must inform the probation officer at least 14 days before the change. If informing the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unexpected circumstances, Mr. Kelerchian must inform the probation officer as soon as possible, and no later than 72 hours after the change.

- 12. If Mr. Kelerchian plans to change where he works or anything about his work (for example, his position or his job responsibilities), Mr. Kelerchian must inform the probation officer at least 14 days before the change. If informing the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unexpected circumstances, Mr. Kelerchian must inform the probation officer within 72 hours after the change.
- 13. Mr. Kelerchian must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer.
- 14. Mr. Kelerchian may not own or possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or any other dangerous weapon. A dangerous weapon is an instrument that is specially designed as a weapon.
- 15. Mr. Kelerchian may not knowingly meet, communicate, or otherwise interact with a person whom he knows to be engaged, or planning to be engaged, in criminal activity.
- 16. Between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., Mr. Kelerchian must permit a probation officer to visit him at home or any other reasonable location and must permit confiscation of any contraband observed in plain view by the probation officer. A visit between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. may be conducted only when the probation officer has a reasonable belief that Mr. Kelerchian has violated a condition of supervision and that a visit during those hours would reveal information or contraband that would not be revealed by a visit at any other time.
- 17. If any portion of the special assessment remains unpaid when Mr. Kelerchian is released from prison, he must pay it within 12 weeks of his release, or, if financially unable to fulfill this requirement, he must arrange a payment schedule with the probation office.
- 18. If a fine is imposed, and if any portion of the fine remains unpaid when Mr. Kelerchian is released from prison, he must pay the fine in monthly installments of \$1,000 until it is paid in full.
- 19. Mr. Kelerchian may not incur new credit charges or open additional lines of credit without the approval of the probation officer.
- 20. Upon the probation officer's request, Mr. Kelerchian must provide the officer with any financial information regarding Mr. Kelerchian's ability to pay a fine, and must authorize the release of any financial information. The request must be in writing and prompted by Mr. Kelerchian's failure to comply with a payment schedule ordered for a period of 60 consecutive days, and the request must describe the specific financial information needed for determining Mr. Kelerchian's current ability to pay. The probation office will share Mr. Kelerchian's financial information with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

USDC IN/ND, case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 6 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 6 of 8

- 21. Mr. Kelerchian must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of any material change in his economic circumstances that might affect his ability to pay any Court-ordered financial obligation.
- 22. Mr. Kelerchian may not transfer, give away, sell, or otherwise convey any asset \$500 without the approval of the probation officer.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 7 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 7 of 8

#### **CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES**

The defendant shall pay the following total criminal monetary penalties in accordance with the schedule of payments set forth in this judgment.

Total Assessment	<u>Total Fine</u>	<b>Total Restitution</b>
\$800	\$100,000	NONE

The defendant shall make the special assessment payment payable to Clerk, U.S. District Court, 5400 Federal Plaza, Suite 2300, Hammond, IN 46320. The special assessment payment shall be due immediately.

#### FINE

A fine in the amount of \$100,000 is imposed.

#### RESTITUTION

No restitution imposed.

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) fine principal, (5) fine interest, (6) community restitution, (7) penalties, and (8) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.

#### **FORFEITURE**

The defendant shall forfeit \$28,200.00 in United States Currency.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-JEM document 251 filed 02/12/18 page 8 of 8 Defendant: VAHAN KELERCHIAN Page 8 of 8

Name: <u>VAHAN KELERCHIAN</u> Docket No.:<u>2:13CR66-001</u>

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SUPERVISION CONDITIONS**

Upon a finding of a violation of probation or supervised release, I understand that the Court may (1) revoke supervision, (2) extend the term of supervision, and/or (3) modify the conditions of supervision.

I have reviewed the Judgment and Commitment Order in my case and the supervision conditions therein. These conditions have been read to me. I fully understand the conditions and have been provided a copy of them.

gned)		
Defendant	Date	
U.S. Probation Officer/Designated Witness	Date	

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 1 of 26

INITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHER	N DISTR	LICT OF INDIANA DIVISION	!'		•	• ?	:	(	2: 03
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	CAUSE NO:	FT.,	••				•••	J.7.:2T
v. VAHAN KELERCHIAN	)	18 U.S.C. § 2 18 U.S.C. § 371 18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(2) 18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(1)( 18 U.S.C. § 924(d) 18 U.S.C. § 1001 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)		•	1	3	C	R	66

#### INDICTMENT

#### THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

# COUNT 1 (Conspiring to Provide False Information to a Federal Firearms Licensee)

At all times material to this indictment:

#### **BACKGROUND**

- VAHAN KELERCHAIN (KELERCHIAN) was the principal owner and operator
   Armament Services International Inc., (ASI). ASI is engaged in the sale of firearms and related items primarily through internet sales.
- 2. ASI principal place of business is located in Warminster, Pennsylvania.
- KELERCHIAN holds a Class 3 Federal Firearms License (FFL) allowing him to deal in fully automatic weapons. KELERCHIAN also holds licenses to manufacture firearms and sell destructive devices, (i.e. grenade launchers)
- 4. The Lake County Sheriff's Department was a law enforcement agency operating in Lake County, Indiana.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 2 of 26

- 5. JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR was employed for approximately 17 years as a sworn law enforcement officer with the Lake County Sheriff's Department, and served as the Deputy Chief for the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- 6. RONALD D. SLUSSER was employed for approximately ten (10) years as a sworn law enforcement officer with the Lake County Sheriff's Department, was a member of the Lake County Sheriff's Department Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit and a firearms instructor.
- 7. E & R Law Enforcement Sales was a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) based in Crown Point, Indiana, owned and operated in part by RONALD D. SLUSSER. RONALD D. SLUSSER previously held a Federal Firearms License while operating individually as "Ron's Gun Sales."
- 8. R & D Law Enforcement Sales was another Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL), based in Merrillville, Indiana, and owned and operated in part by RONALD D. SLUSSER.
- 9. PF Custom Guns was a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL).
- 10. Heckler and Koch (hereinafter H&K) was a well know German based firearms manufacturer producing a wide assortment of handguns, rifles, machineguns, and submachineguns for both military and civilian use. H&K had numerous subsidiaries operating within the United States in Virginia, New Hampshire, and Georgia. H&K had served as a United States government contractor for the both the United States Military and United States civilian law enforcement agencies. H&K was a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL).

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 3 of 26

<u>.</u> . . . .

- 10. Insight Technology Inc., (hereinafter Insight) located in Londonderry, New Hampshire, was a manufacturer of highly sophisticated laser aiming and illumination devices, night vision devices, laser range finding systems, computerized fire control systems, thermal imaging systems, and sensor fusion systems. Insight's products were, and are still are, used by the United States military, Federal law enforcement agencies, and allied nations. In addition, Insight Technology Inc. developed and maintained a line of tactical illuminators (laser aiming devices) restricted for use only by the military and Law Enforcement agencies, as well as products for sale to the general public.
- 11. Federal law restricted to law enforcement agencies or the military the sale and ownership of fully automatic machineguns manufactured after 1986. No individual law enforcement officer could purchase a post-1986 fully automatic machinegun. Possession of post-1986 fully automatic machineguns by a law enforcement officer could only be authorized by the officer's law enforcement agency and only for the law enforcement duties of that officer.

#### OBJECT OF THE CONSPIRACY

12. Between on or about November 2008, and continuing through on or about January of 2010, in the Northern District of Indiana and elsewhere:

#### VAHAN KELERCHIAN

defendant herein, together with Joseph Kumstar, and Ronald Slusser, did knowingly combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with each other, and with others known and unknown to the grand jury, to commit an offense against the United States, that is, to knowingly make false statements and representations with respect to information under Chapter 44, of Title 18 of the United States Code, required to be kept in the records of

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 4 of 26 individuals licensed under Chapter 44, relating to the acquisition of firearms, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 924(a)(1)(A).

## HOW THE CONSPIRACY OPERATED

- 13. It was part of the conspiracy that JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER used their position as sworn law enforcement officers, and VAHAN KELERCHAIN used his position as a Class 3 firearms dealer to acquire approximately 71 (Seventy-One) fully automatic H&K machineguns in the name of the Lake County Sheriff's Department knowing that the Lake County Sheriff's Department was not the true owner of these machineguns.
- 14. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHAIN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER knew these H&K machineguns were manufactured after 1986, and therefore could only be acquired by law enforcement agencies and not individual law enforcement officers.
- 15. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring the H&K machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER caused false entries listing the Lake County Sheriff's Department as the owner of these machineguns, to be made by individuals and companies required to keep such records under Chapter 44, of Title 18 of the United States Code.
- 16. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER, used Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead to create letters which falsely represented that the

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 5 of 26

- H&K machineguns were being purchased by and were going to be used by, the Lake County Sheriff's Department in carrying out its law enforcement responsibilities.
- 17. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER used the Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead to create documents which falsely represented the H&K machineguns were to be used by the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- 18. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER created false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's Department purchase orders to convince the suppliers of the H&K machineguns that the Lake County Sheriff's Department was the true purchaser of the H&K machineguns even though the defendants themselves provided the funds for the purchase of these H&K machineguns.
- 19. It was further part of the conspiracy that VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R.
  KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER acquired these H&K machineguns for a cost of between approximately \$1200 and \$1600 each.
- 20. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER had all of the H&K machineguns shipped to the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- 21. It was further part of the conspiracy that after acquiring these machineguns, all of the H&K machineguns were removed from the Lake County Sheriff's Department to the personal residence of RONALD D. SLUSSER.
- 22. It was further part of the conspiracy that after the H&K machineguns were at the personal residence of RONALD D. SLUSSER, he would remove the upper receivers (the barrel)

. USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 6 of 26 and any other additional parts that could be removed from the lower receiver (the firing

mechanism of the H&K machinegun).

- 23. It was further part of the conspiracy that after removing the upper receivers and any other additional parts that could be removed from the lower receiver, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER would sell on the internet to any willing purchaser, all of these upper receivers and additional parts. The sale of these upper receivers and parts would range from approximately \$2,500 to \$3800 each.
- 24. It was further part of the conspiracy that after removing the upper receivers, RONALD D. SLUSSER would return some of the upper receivers to VAHAN KELERCHIAN.
- 25. At no time did VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D.

  SLUSSER have proper authority from the Lake County Sheriff's Department to engage in any of the above mentioned purchases or sales of the H&K machineguns or their parts.
- 26. At no time were any of the H&K machineguns obtained by VAHAN KELERCHIAN,

  JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER listed in the property inventory of
  the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- 27. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect its objects:

#### VAHAN KELERCHIAN,

Defendant herein, together with JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER, and others known and unknown to the grand jury performed the following:

#### **OVERT ACTS**

First Machinegun Purchase

 a. On or about December 22, 2008, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR issued a "Letter of Intent" on Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead to H&K for (50) USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 7 of 26

- additional H&K model 416 fully automatic machineguns. This letter of intent stated these machineguns were for the "exclusive law enforcement use of the Lake County Sheriff's Department" and that the "point of contact for all inquiries in this matter will be Warrant Officer Ron Slusser." The letter then listed RONALD D. SLUSSER'S home phone number. This letter was signed "Joseph Kumstar, Chief of Police."
- b. VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLSSER used their personal funds to obtain these machineguns and did not have proper authorization of the Lake County Sheriff's Department to purchase these machineguns. These (50) machineguns were purchased for approximately \$1650 each.
- c. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided payment to a third party gun dealer in the amount of approximately \$83,026.
- d. Shortly after obtaining these (50) H&K fully automatic machineguns, RONALD D. SLUSSER did cut up and remove the upper receiver barrels from these (50) H&K fully automatic machineguns. Some of these upper barrels were sold on the internet to any willing buyer with VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER retaining the proceeds from this sale. Some of the upper barrels were returned to KELERCHIAN.
- e. In or about May of 2011, during the execution of an organized crime search warrant by Montreal, Canada, gun and gang law enforcement officials, recovered four upper barrels from this (50) H&K fully automatic machinegun purchase by VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER.

. USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 8 of 26

The serial numbers on these upper receivers (barrels) listed the Lake County Sheriff's Department as the registered owner.

#### Second Machinegun Purchase

- f. In or about February of 2009, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR issued another "Letter of Intent" on Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead to H&K for (9) H&K model MP5KN fully automatic machineguns. This letter of intent stated these machineguns were for the exclusive use of the Lake County Police Department.
- g. In or about February of 2009, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR and RONALD D. SLUSSER did cause a false and fictitious Lake County

  Sheriff's Department purchase order to be mailed or faxed, which represented the Lake County Sheriff's Department to be the purchaser of these machineguns even though it was not the true purchaser as required by law.
- h. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided payment to H&K, the gun manufacturer /distributer in the amount of approximately \$11,664.
- i. Shortly after obtaining these (9) H&K fully automatic machineguns, RONALD D. SLUSSER did cut up and remove the upper receiver barrels from these fully automatic machineguns. These upper barrels were sold to Person A in Utah. Person A paid Slusser \$18,900 for these H&K parts. Slusser then paid \$9450 to Kumstar and \$9450 to Kelerchian. These payments to Kelerchian and Kumstar were paid because Kelerchain and Kumstar had fronted money for this purchase.

#### Third Machinegun Purchase

j. In or about October 2009, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR issued another "Letter of Intent" on Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead for (12) H&K model USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 9 of 26

- 53A3 fully automatic sub-machineguns. This letter of intent stated these sub-machineguns would be the property of the Lake County Sheriff's Department and would not be resold or transferred, and would be used to carry out the official duties of the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- k. In or about October of 2009, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR and RONALD D. SLUSSER did cause another false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's Department purchase order to be mailed or faxed, which represented the Lake County Sheriff's Department to be the purchaser of these sub-machineguns even though it was not the true purchaser as required by law.
- I. Shortly after obtaining these (12) H&K fully automatic sub-machineguns, RONALD D. SLUSSER did cut up and remove the upper receiver barrels from these fully automatic machineguns. These upper barrels were sold to Person A in Utah. Person A paid Slusser \$31,200 for these H&K parts. Slusser then paid Kelerchian \$28,200. This payment to Kelerchain was made because Kelerchian had fronted the money for this purchase.
- m. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided payment to the H&K, the gun manufacturer/distributer, in the amount of approximately \$16,800.
- n. At no time did VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER have the proper permission of the Lake County Sheriff's Department to engage in any of the above three purchases or subsequent sales of these H&K sub-machineguns.
- 28. In the purchasing each of these (71) machineguns and sub-machineguns, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER knowingly caused

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 10 of 26

false entries to be made in the books and records of the companies supplying these firearms, in that these records reflected the Lake County Sheriff's Department as the registered owner of these (71) firearms when in fact, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER knew that to be false.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code 371 and 924(a)(1)(A).

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 11 of 26

#### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

#### **COUNT 2**

## (Conspiring to Defraud the Food and Drug Administration)

1. The Grand Jury realleges and reincorporates by reference paragraphs 1-11, of Count 1 as though fully set forth herein;

#### OBJECT OF THE CONSPIRACY

Between on or about December 2008, and continuing through on or about September
 2010, in the Northern District of Indiana and elsewhere:

#### VAHAN KELERCHIAN,

defendants herein, did knowingly combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with JOSEPH KUMSTAR, RONALD D. SLUSSER, and with others known and unknown to the grand jury, to defraud the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an agency of the United States, by interfering with and obstructing the lawful government functions of the FDA to:

- a. Limit the sale of various restricted laser aiming sight devices to the military and law enforcement agencies only;
- b. Correctly identify first line purchasers of various laser aiming sight devices which were restricted to military or law enforcement agency purchasers only.

All in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 371.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 12 of 26

#### **HOW THE CONSPIRACY OPERATED**

- 3. It was part of the conspiracy that JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER used their position as sworn law enforcement officers, along with VAHAN KELERCHIAN, to acquire approximately 74 (Seventy-Four) restricted laser aiming sight devices by fraudulently using the name of the Lake County Sheriff's Department and The Lowell, Indiana, Police Department, knowing that the Lake County Sheriff's Department and the Lowell Police Department were not the true owners of these restricted laser aiming devices.
- 4. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser aiming sights, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER knew they could only be acquired by law enforcement agencies and not individual law enforcement officers.
- 5. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these (74) restricted laser aiming sight devices, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER caused false information to be recorded in the books and records of the Insight Technology, Inc., regarding who was the true first purchaser of these laser aiming sight devices. Furthermore, by causing false information to be recorded in the books records of the Insight Technology, Inc., VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER interfered with and obstructed the lawful government functions of the FDA to (a) limit the sale of various restricted laser aiming sight devices to only the military and law enforcement agencies and (b) correctly identify first line purchasers of these (74) various laser aiming sight devices, the sale of which was restricted to military or law enforcement agency purchases only.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 13 of 26

- 6. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights

  VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER caused

  to be submitted to Insight Technology, Inc., a false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's

  Department purchase order for the purpose of inducing Insight Technology, Inc., to

  believe that these restricted laser sights were being purchased by the Lake County

  Sheriff's Department, when in fact the defendants were acquiring these restricted laser

  sights with their own personal funds and for their personal use and resale.
- 7. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights

  VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER caused

  to be submitted to Insight Technology, Inc., a false and fictitious Lowell Police

  Department documents for the purpose of inducing Insight Technology, Inc., to believe

  that these restricted laser sights were being purchased by the Lowell Police Department,

  when in fact the defendants were acquiring these restricted laser sights with their own

  personal funds and for their personal use and resale.
- 8. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights

  VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER would

  submit to Insight Technology, Inc., a "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" signed by

  JOSPEH R. KUMSTAR which falsely represented that the restricted laser sights being

  purchased would "not be sold or transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian

  personnel."
- It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights
   VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER would
   submit to Insight Technology, Inc., a "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" which purported

to be signed by the proper authorities at the Lowell Police Department but in fact, falsely

represented that the restricted laser sights being purchased would "not be sold or

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 14 of 26

transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian personnel."

- 10. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER caused false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's Department purchase orders to be created which falsely represented that the restricted laser sights were being purchased by the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- 11. It was further part of the conspiracy that when acquiring these restricted laser sights

  VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER would

  cause these restricted laser sights to be delivered to the Lake County Sheriff's Department

  or the Lowell Police Department rather than to their personal residences.
- 12. It was further part of the conspiracy that after acquiring these restricted laser sights, all of them were removed from the Lake County Sheriff's Department and the Lowell Police

  Department to the personal residence of either KUMSTAR or SLUSSER.
- 13. It was further part of the conspiracy that after these restricted laser sights were at the either KUMSTAR or SLUSSER's residence, RONALD D. SLUSSER would sell some these restricted laser sights on the internet to any willing purchaser. The sale of these restricted laser sights ranged from approximately \$2,800 to \$3000 each. Some of the restricted lasers aiming sights were retained by each of the defendants.
- 14. At no time did VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER have proper authority from the Lake County Sheriff's Department or the

- . USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 15 of 26
  - Lowell Police Department to engage in any of the above mentioned purchases or sales of the restricted laser sights.
  - 15. At no time were any of the restricted laser sights obtained by VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER listed in the property inventory of the Lake County Sheriff's Department or the Lowell Police Department.
  - 16. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect its objects:

#### VAHAN KELERCHIAN,

Defendant herein, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER, and other conspirators, known and unknown to the grand jury performed the following:

#### **OVERT ACTS**

#### First Laser Sight Purchase

- a. In or about December 6, 2008, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R.
  KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER ordered from Insight Technology Inc.,
  approximately 25 various restricted laser sights having a value of approximately
  \$27,000.
- b. On or about December 6, 2008, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, submitted to Insight Technology, Inc., a "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" signed by JOSPEH R. KUMSTAR which represented that the restricted laser sights being purchased would "not be sold or transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian personnel."
- c. In or about December of 2008, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR signed a false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's Department purchase order inducing Insight Technology, Inc., to believe that the Lake County Sheriff's Department was the

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 16 of 26

- true purchaser of these restricted laser sights even though the defendants themselves provided the funds for the purchase of these restricted laser sights.
- d. In or about January of 2009, Insight Technology, Inc. shipped these restricted laser sights to the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- e. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided payment to Insight
  Technologies Inc., in excess of \$17,000.
- f. After obtaining these restricted laser sights, RONALD D. SLUSSER sent back to VAHAN KELERCHIAN approximately 12 of these restricted laser sights.
- g. After obtaining these restricted laser sights, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH
  R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER sold via the internet some these restricted laser sights to any and all willing purchasers, including Keith Mitts.
- h. On or about August 21, 2009, the Department of Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) engaged in a successful undercover purchase of a restricted laser sight being offered for sale on E-Bay by a Keith Mitts. DCIS undercover agents paid \$4,200 for a restricted laser aiming sight which was traced back to the December 6, 2008, laser sight order from Insight Technology, Inc., which was sent to the Lake County Sheriff's Department. Subsequent to this undercover purchase, two additional restricted laser sights of the same model and type that were part of the December 6, 2008, laser sight order from Insight Technology, Inc., which was sent to the Lake County Sheriff's Department, were recovered from Mitt's Mississippi residence during Mitt's shooting and standoff with local police officers.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 17 of 26

Second Laser Sight Purchase

- In or about December 2009, the defendants ordered from Insight Technology Inc.,
   approximately 12 restricted laser sights having a value of approximately \$15,000.
- j. On or about December 2009, RONALD R. SLUSSER submitted to Insight Technology Inc., an "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" which represented that the restricted laser sights being purchased would "not be sold or transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian personnel."
- k. In or about January of 2010, Insight Technology, Inc. shipped these restricted laser sights and RONALD D. SLUSSER obtained these restricted laser sights.
- For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided several payments to Insight
  Technologies Inc., totaling more than \$15,000.
- m. After obtaining these restricted laser sights, RONALD D. SLUSSER sold via the internet these restricted laser sights to any willing purchaser.

#### Third Laser Sight Purchase

- n. In or about February 2010, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR, and RONALD D. SLUSSER ordered from Insight Technology Inc., approximately 22 various restricted laser sights having value of approximately \$30,000.
- o. On or about February 23, 2010, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR submitted to Insight Technology Inc., an "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" signed by JOSPEH R. KUMSTAR which represented that the restricted laser sights being purchased

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 18 of 26

- would "not be sold or transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian personnel."
- p. In or about February 2010, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, JOSEPH R. KUMSTAR and RONALD SLUSSER created a false and fictitious Lake County Sheriff's Department purchase order inducing Insight Technology, Inc., to believe that the Lake County Sheriff's Department was the true purchaser of these restricted laser sights even though the defendants themselves provided the funds for the purchase of these the restricted laser sights.
- q. In or about March 2010, Insight Technology, Inc. shipped these restricted laser sights to the Lake County Sheriff's Department.
- r. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided several payments to Insight

  Technologies Inc., totaling more than \$25,000.
- s. After obtaining these restricted laser sights, RONALD D. SLUSSER sold via the internet some of these restricted laser sights to any willing purchaser.
- t. Approximately 20 of these restricted laser sights were returned to VAHAN KELERCHIAN by RONALD D. SLUSSER.

#### Fourth Laser Sight Purchase

- u. In or about July 2010, RONALD D. SLUSSER ordered from Insight Technology,
   Inc., approximately 15 restricted laser sights from Insight Technology Inc., having
   a value of approximately \$18,000.
- v. On or about July 6, 2010, RONALD R. SLUSSER submitted to Insight

  Technology, Inc., an "IR Product Disclosure Agreement" which represented that

- USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 19 of 26
  - the restricted laser sights being purchased would "not be sold or transferred to individual law enforcement or civilian personnel."
  - w. In or about August 2010, Insight Technology, Inc. shipped these restricted laser sights and RONALD D. SLUSSER subsequently retrieved them.
  - x. For this purchase, VAHAN KELERCHIAN provided payment to Insight Technologies Inc., in excess of \$16,000.
  - y. After obtaining these restricted laser sights, RONALD D. SLUSSER sold via the internet these restricted laser sights to any willing purchaser and sent two of the sights back to VAHAN KELERCHIAN.
  - z. On August of 2010, a Special Agent of the FDA engaged in an undercover purchase of a restricted laser sight from RONDAL D. SLUSSER. This restricted laser sight was purchased by RONALD D. SLUSSER from Insight Technology, Inc., for approximately \$1250.00 and sold to the FDA undercover agent for approximately \$2900.00. An examination of the serial number for this sight revealed that it was part of the July 2010 order of 15 restricted laser sights that had been ordered by RONALD D. SLUSSER and paid for by VAHAN KELERCHIAN.

All in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 371.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 20 of 26

#### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

#### COUNT 3

(Conspiracy to Make False Statements - Demonstration Letters)

From on or about October 2007, and continuing to in or about March 28, 2010, both dates being approximate and inclusive, in the Northern District of Indiana and elsewhere,

#### VAHAN KELERCHIAN

defendant herein, and Joseph Kumstar, knowingly combined, conspired, confederated and agreed together and with each other, and with other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit the following offenses against the United States: to willfully and knowingly make and cause to be made, and use and cause to be used, in a matter within the jurisdiction of a department or agency of the United States, to wit: the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, false writings and documents to wit: approximately (7) letters on Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead requesting firearm demonstrations of machine guns (demonstration letters) from VAHAN KELERCHIAN, knowing the same to contain a materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statement because VAHAN KELERCHIAN very well knew that in fact no demonstration was going to occur.

In furtherance of this scheme, false demonstration letters were sent from Lake County Indiana, VAHAN KELERCHIAN and to the National Firearms Branch of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms located in Martinsburg, WV., on the following approximate days: October 4, 2007, February 13, 2009, February 16, 2009, June 29, 2009, March 28, 2010.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code Section 1001, and 371.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 21 of 26

#### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

#### COUNTS 4-7

(False Statements - Demonstration Letters)

On or about the following dates in the Northern District of Indiana and elsewhere,

#### VAHAN KELERCHIAN

defendant herein, and Joseph Kumstar did willfully and knowingly make and cause to be made, and use and cause to be used, in a matter within the jurisdiction of a department or agency of the United States, to wit: the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, false writings and documents to wit: approximately (4) letters on Lake County Sheriff's Department letterhead requesting firearm demonstrations of various machine guns (demonstration letters) from VAHAN KELERCHIAN, knowing the same to contain a materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statement because VAHAN KELERCHIAN very well knew that in fact no demonstration was going to occur, said letters being mailed from Lake County Indiana, to VAHAN KELERCHIAN in Pennsylvania and the the National Firearms Branch of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms located in Martinsburg, WV., on the following approximate days:

COUNT	<u>DATE</u>
4	February 13, 2009
5	February 16, 2009
6	June 29, 2009
7	March 28, 2010

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 and 2.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 22 of 26

#### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

#### **COUNT 8**

#### (Bribery)

- At all times material to this indictment, the Lake County Sheriff's Department was an agency
  of a local government entity to wit: Lake County, Indiana, that received federal assistance in
  excess of \$10,000 during the one-year period beginning January 2, 2008 and ending
  December 31, 2008.
- Joseph Kumstar was an agent of Lake County Sheriff's Department acting as its Deputy
   Chief, in charge of operations, whose duties included overseeing and managing the Lake
   County Sheriff's Department.
- 3. On or about July 31, 2008, in the District of Indiana, and elsewhere,

#### VAHAN KELERCHIAN

defendant herein, did corruptly give, offer, and agree to give a thing of value to wit: a

Remington .12 Gauge short-barrel shotgun, to Joseph Kumstar, intending to influence and
reward Joseph Kumstar in connection with a transaction and series of transactions of the

Lake County Sheriff's Department involving \$5,000 or more.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(2) and 2.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 23 of 26

#### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

#### COUNT 9

(Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments: 1956 and 1957)

Beginning in or about February 2009 and continuing through in or about January 2010, both dates being approximate and inclusive, in the District of Indiana and elsewhere,

#### VAHAN KELECHIAN

Defendant herein, Joseph Kumstar, and Ronald Slusser, willfully and knowingly conspired and agreed together and with each other, and with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit certain offenses:

- 1) Under Title 18, United States Code § 1956, to conduct and attempt to conduct financial transactions affecting interstate commerce, which transactions involved proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is mail and wire fraud, in violation of title 18 United States Code § 1341 and 1343: (1) with the intent to promote the carrying on of such specified unlawful activity and (2) knowing that the transaction was designed in whole or in part to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds of said specified unlawful activity, and while conducting or attempting to conduct such financial transactions knew that the property involved in the financial transaction represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, and
- 2) Under Title 18, United States Code § 1957, to conduct and attempt to conduct monetary transactions affecting interstate commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 24 of 26 \$10,000, such property having been derived from a specified unlawful activity, that is, mail and wire fraud, in violation of Title 18 United States Code § 1341 and 1343.

All in violation of Title 18 United States Code 1956(h), 1956(a)(1)(B)(i), 1957, and 2.

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 25 of 26

#### FIRST FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

- 1. The allegations of Count One of the Indictment are realleged and by this reference fully incorporated herein for the purpose of alleging forfeitures to the United States of America pursuant to the provisions of Title 18 United States Code, Section 924(d), and Title 28 United States Code, Section 2461(c).
- 2. Upon conviction of Count One of the Indictment, Vahan Kelerchian, defendant herein, shall forfeit to the United States of America pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(d), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any and all firearms involved in the commission of such offenses:

USDC IN/ND case 2:13-cr-00066-JVB-PRC document 1 filed 05/17/13 page 26 of 26

#### SECOND FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

- 1. The allegations contained in Count 9 of this Indictment are hereby re-alleged and incorporated by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 982(a)(1).
- 2. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), upon conviction of an offense in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956 and 1957, the defendant, VAHAN KELERCHIAN, shall forfeit to the United States of America any property, real or personal, involved in such offense, and any property traceable to such property.
- 3. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:
- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

the United States of America shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

A TRUE BILL:

S/Foreperson FOREPERSON

DAVID CAPP UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By: S/Philip C. Benson
Philip C. Benson
Assistant United States Attorney

# **Anthony Baiamonte III**

February 28, 2018

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

RE: Character Reference for Vahan Steven Kelerchian

Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges License or Permit number 8-23-017-01-5A-02276

Dear Sir/Madam:

I submit this Character Reference in support of, and granting relief to, Vahan Steven Kelerchian's Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges.

I have personally known Mr. Kelerchian for more than ten (10) years as a personal friend. He is of high moral character and has proven to be a trustworthy and honorable man. I am proud to call Mr. Kelerchian my friend.

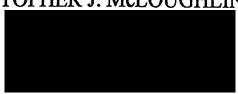
If you need any additional information, or have any questions of me in my support of Mr. Kelerchian, please contact me directly.

Thank you for your considerations. I remain,

Sincerely

By: /s/ Anthony Baiamonte III

## CHRISTOPHER J. McLOUGHLIN, PC



27 February 2018

Joshua Prince, Esq. Prince Law Offices, P.C. 646 Lenape Rd Bechtelsville, PA 19505

RE: Vahan Kelerchian

Mr. Prince:

This letter is addressed to you in support of Vahan Kelerchian's request to BATF regarding his application for Federal Firearms relief, and I authorize you to make it available to anyone appropriate to this use. As a retired security consultant, I was self-employed in the varied aspects of that field for more than a quarter of a century, and I supported myself without incident or reprimand of any sort for my professional career.

My association and friendship with Mr. Kelerchian goes back a decade, probably more. During these years his expertise with acquisition and disposition of firearms has been invaluable to me and to my own friends and clients. He has with authority given advice on investment grade firearms and guided us through a maze of rules and regulations in order to insure that no paperwork was returned for further attention due to an omission or misstatement of description or condition. Perhaps presenting an aggravation to buyers or sellers, I've known him to strictly avoid any transaction that might bend rules effecting administrative procedure or record keeping. His advice has been given and taken in matters ranging from simple transfers to elaborate evaluations of inventory distributions in the dissolutions of estate assets.

Over time I have come to know Mr. Kelerchian on a personal level as well as a professional one. Apart from knowing firearms and the business of them, he is comfortable with the history of U.S. military hardware, and not only that, he knows more about the colonial geography of his part of the country than I do about the Confederate history of mine. He's shared this knowledge with his wife and their two daughters on weekend outings and summer vacations away

Mr. Prince 27 February Page 02.

from his business. I know so because he's told me about them — in detail. He is a family man and takes pride in talking to me about his eldest daughter's passing her bar exam and her first date, just as he does about his youngest daughter's birthday party stories and the things that hold her interests. And when the time is right he and Maura take time together for a quick trip to New York, and I hear about that too. Vahan and I have become more than just business friends.

The business is operated meticulously and with an enviable sense of responsibility and attention to detail. Recently the business records underwent an intense scrutiny audit, and I understand that the books passed with praise and not the usual criticisms of form, content, or carelessness.

His business is the support of himself, his wife and their two daughters. I know of nothing that he might have knowingly done to put that in jeopardy and while he does not now operate the business himself, there should be no impediment to letting the business continue to function for their livelihood and well-being by granting him Federal Firearms relief.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHERY. McLOUGHLIN, PC

Chris MoLoughlin

(...\CJMcL LTR 2018\VK:ASI 27-02-18\CJMcL.PC)



February 25, 2018

RE: Vahan S. Kelerchian, Applicant

To Whom This May Concern,

My name is John T. Conway. I am a New York State Licensed Funeral Director. I am a United States Coast Guard Licensed Captain. I am 68 years old and am a college graduate. I have known Vahan Kelerchian since 1975, both on a personal level as well as on a professional level. I feel that I am a good judge of one's character and I can speak of Mr. Kelerchian in an honest and objective manner.

For many years my wife's family and his wife's family lived across the street from each other and both families were very close to each other. Coincidentally, when my wife and I bought our first house, it was two houses away from Mr. Kelerchian's family home. We could not have had better neighbors than the Kelerchians. Vahan and I saw each other almost on a daily basis. I know him well. I know him to be a straight and honest man, one who could be depended upon as a neighbor. He looked out for his family as well as his neighbors. He was definitely an asset to the neighborhood.

I know him to be a very good businessman and an even better family man. There is nothing more important to him than his family. I know him to be honest, perhaps to a fault. He is dependable and his word is as good as gold.

It is my sincere hope that his application be given a fair and objective review.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John T. Conway

Mr. Anthony DiGiovanni

February 23, 2018



U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Re: Kelerchian, Vahan, Steven

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my dear friend, Vahan Steven Kelerchian. I am a small business owner in Jackson Heights, NY. My family has owned and operated a delicatessen for more than 58 years. It's the quintessential neighborhood deli that everyone who went to school nearby patronized year after year, and many of our friends still live in the community. I grew up in the neighborhood, along with Vahan and his wife Maura, and we have been friends for more than 46 years. This is the place where we forged many of our lifelong friendships. During the many years that I have known Vahan, I can attest to the fact that he has always conducted himself with both honor and integrity, and he has always been very well respected in the community.

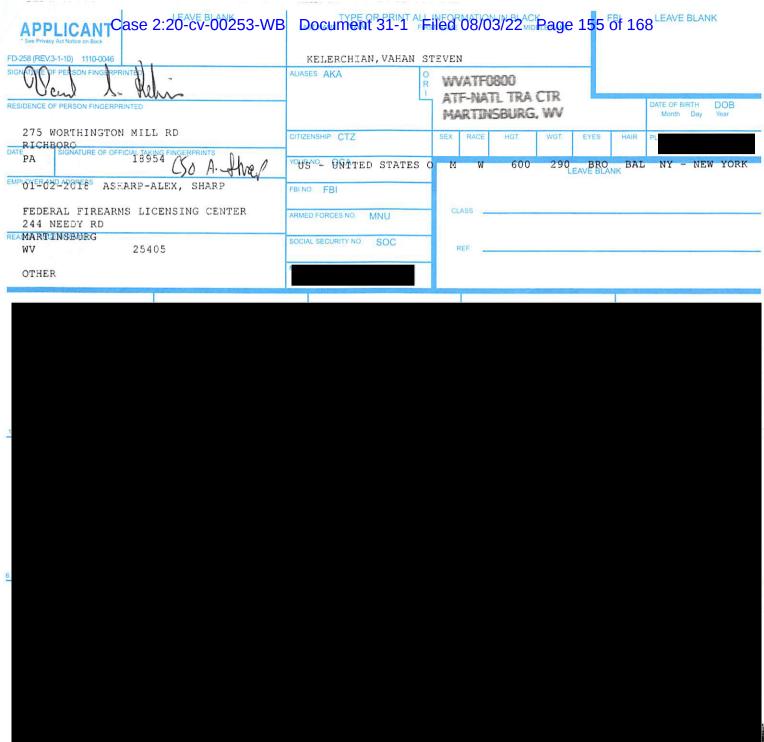
Vahan formerly operated a car repair shop not too far away from my business, and everyone with whom he came into contact had nothing but praise for him. He has always been kind, courteous, and willing to help anyone in need. Whether it was family members, friends, customers, or even strangers that were in need of assistance, he always offered help and never turned his back on anyone, no matter the circumstance. I can personally attest to this because I have witnessed his kindness on many occasions over the years. It is because of these attributes that Vahan was very successful in the auto repair business for many years. He ultimately moved to Pennsylvania in order to follow his lifelong passion of becoming a Federal Firearms dealer. There, along with Maura, he built another successful business with an impeccable record. For as long as I have known Vahan, he has always been driven to be the best at whatever pursuit he follows. Vahan is a man who values honesty, morality, and strong principles, and he has been a man of the utmost character in all the years that we have been friends. He is also a man who knows the importance of family, whereby he and Maura have raised two beautiful daughters and instilled within them the same core values. I have always held Vahan in the highest regard; I never had a brother, but he is as close to one that I could have ever found. We will always be friends and nothing can or will ever change that fact.

I am thankful for the opportunity to provide a testament on behalf of Vahan Kelerchian. I hope that my words have served to paint a clear picture of the man and friend that I have had the privilege to know and admire for almost the entirety of my life.

Sincerely,

**Anthony DiGiovanni** 

Gathony & Gioranni



# Case 2:20-cv-0**p253-WB, Document 31-1= Filed 08/p3/22 T Rag**e 156 of 168

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1.1.00P

CJIS DIVISION/CLARKSBURG, WV 26306

## **APPLICANT**

#### THIS CARD FOR USE BY:

- 1 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN FINGERPRINTING APPLICANTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT POSITIONS \*
- 2. OFFICIALS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR PURPOSES OF EMPLOYMENT, LICENSING, AND

PERMITS AS AUTHORIZED BY STATE STATUTES AND APPROVED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE

UNITED STATES. LOCAL AND COUNTY ORDINANCES, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY BASED ON APPLICABLE STATE STATUTES DO NOT SATISFY THIS REQUIREMENT.

- U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER ENTITIES REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW.\*\*
- 4. OFFICIALS OF FEDERALLY CHARTERED OR INSURED BANKING INSTITUTIONS TO PROMOTE OR MAINTAIN

THE SECURITY OF THOSE INSTITUTIONS

- Please review this helpful information to aid in the successful processing of hard copy criminal and civil fingerprint submissions in order to prevent delays or rejections. Hard copy fingerprint submissions must meet specific criteria for processing by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

  Ensure all information is typed or legibly printed using blue or black link.

  Enter data within the boundaries of the designated field or block.

  Complete all required fields. (If a required field is left blank, the fingerprint cards are: originating agency identifier number date of birth place of birth name sex fingerprint impressions any applicable state stamp Other (race, height, weight, ley color,

criminal fingerprint cards also require an arrest charge and date of arrest.
 civil fingerprint cards also require a reason fingerprinted and date fingerprinted.

Do not use highlighters on fingerprint cards.
Do not enter data or labels within "Leave Blank" areas.
Ensure the 'Reply Desired' fletd is checked when applicable (criminal only).
Ensure fingerprint impressions are rolled completely from nail to nail. Ensure Ingerprint Impressions are forther completely from fail to hair. Ensure fingerprint Impressions are in the correct sequence. Ensure notations are made for any missing fingerprint Impression (i.e. amputation). Do not use more than two retabs per fingerprint impression block. Ensure no stray marks are within the fingerprint impression blocks.

Training aids can be ordered online via the Internet by accessing the FBI's website at: fbi.gov, click on 'Fingerprints', then click on 'Ordering Fingerprint Cards & Training Aids'. Direct questions to the Identification and Investigative Services Section's Customer Service Group at (304) 625-5590 or by e-mail at liaison@leo.gov>

#### PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authority: The FBI's acquisition, preservation, and exchange of information requested by this form is generally authorized under 28 U.S.C. 534. Depending on the nature of your application, supplemental authorities include numerous Federal statutes, hundreds of State statutes pursuant to Pub.L. 92-544. Presidential executive orders, regulations and/or orders of the Attorney General of the United States, or other authorized authorities. Examples include, but are not limited to: 5 U.S.C. 9101; Pub.L. 101-604; and Executive Orders 10450 and 12968. Providing the requested information is voluntary; however, failure to furnish the information may affect timely completion or approval of your application

Social Security Account Number (SSAN). Your SSAN is needed to keep records accurate because other people may have the same name and birth date. Pursuant to the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a), the requesting agency is responsible for informing you whether disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by what statutory or other authority your SSAN is solicited, and what uses will be made of it. Executive Order 9397 also asks Federal agencies to use this number to help identify individuals in agency records.

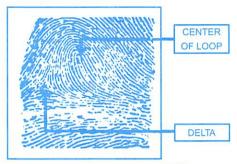
Principal Purpose: Certain determinations, such as employment, security, licensing, and adoption, may be predicated on fingerprint-based checks. Your fingerprints and other information contained on (and along with) this form may be submitted to the requestive agency, the agency conducting the application investigation, and/or FBI for the purpose of comparing the submitted information to available records in order to identify other information that may be perfuent to the application. During the processing of this application, and for as long hereafter as may be relevant to the activity for which this application is being submitted, the FBI may disclose any potentially pertinent information to the requesting agency and/or to the agency conducting the investigation. The FBI may also retain the submitted information, the FBI's permanent collection of fingerprints and related information, where it will be subject to comparisons against other submissions received by the FBI. Depending on the nature of your application, the requesting agency and/or the agency conducting the application investigation may also retain the fingerprints and nitted information for other authorized purposes of such agency(ies).

Routine Uses: The fingerprints and information reported on this form may be disclosed pursuant to your consent, and may also be disclosed by the FBI without your consent as permitted by the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a(b)) and all applicable routine uses as may be published at any time in the Federal Register, including the routine uses for the FBI Fingerprint identification Records System (Justice/FBI-09) and the FBI's Blanket Routine Uses (Justice/FBI-BRU). Routine uses include, but are not limited to, disclosures to: appropriate governmental authorities responsible for civil or criminal law enforcement, counterintelligence, national security or public safety matters to which the information may be relevant; to State and local governmental agencies and nongovernmental entitles for application processing as authorized by Federal and State legislation, executive order, or regulation, including employment, security, library adoption chesics, and as otherwise authorized by law, treats involved in processing this application, they may have

Additional Information: The requesting agency and/or the agency conducting the application-investigation will provide you additional information pertinent to the specific circumstances of this application, which may include identification of other authorities, purposes, uses, and consequences of not providing requested information. In addition, any such agency in the Federal Executive Branch has also published notice in the Federal Register describing any system(s) of records in which that agency may also maintain your records, including the authorities, purposes, and routine uses for the system(s).

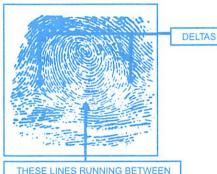
#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. PRINTS MUST GENERALLY BE CHECKED THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE STATE IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, AND ONLY THOSE FINGERPRINTS FOR WHICH NO DISQUALIFYING RECORD HAS BEEN FOUND LOCALLY SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR FBI SEARCH.
- IDENTITY OF PRIVATE CONTRACTORS SHOULD BE SHOWN IN SPACE "EMPLOYER AND ADDRESS". THE
- CONTRIBUTOR IS THE NAME OF THE AGENCY SUBMITTING THE FINGERPRINT CARD TO THE FBI. 3. FBI NUMBER, IF KNOWN, SHOULD ALWAYS BE FURNISHED IN THE APPROPRIATE SPACE.
- \*\* MISCELLANEOUS NO. RECORD: OTHER ARMED FORCES NO. PASSPORT NO. [FP], ALIEN REGISTRATION NO. (AR), PORT SECURITY CARD NO. (PS), SELECTIVE SERVICE NO. (SS) VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION CLAIM NO. (VA).



THE LINES BETWEEN CENTER OF LOOP AND DELTA MUST SHOW

#### 2. WHORL



DELTAS MUST BE CLEAR

#### 3. ARCH



ARCHES HAVE NO DELTAS

FD-258 (REV. 3-1-10)

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE: 10/22/2015 12:51:47

# Exhibit I

# Case 2:20-cv-00253-WB Document 31-1 Filed 08/03/22 Page 158 of 168 PRINCE LAW OFFICES, P.C.

Warren H. Prince Karl P. Voigt IV Joshua Prince Eric E. Winter Thomas H. Odom Stanley J. Kuter Jeffrey A Franklin Adam J. Kraut Jorge Pereira

Bechtelsville 1-610-845-3803 1-610-770-1151 Allentown Bethlehem 1-610-814-0838 Camp Hill 1-717-731-0100 Lancaster 1-717-393-7002 1-717-274-9250 Lebanon North Wales 1-215-412-0800 Pottstown 1-610-326-4200 Pottsville 1-570-621-8828 1-610-375-8425 Reading Toll Free 1-888-313-0416 1-610-845-3903 Fax

April 09, 2018

U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Attention Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives NCETR - Relief of Disabilities Section

Corporal Road, Building 3750, Redstone Arsenal Huntsville, AL 35898

RE: Vahan Kelerchian Application for Restoration of Firearms Privileges FFL # 8-23-017-01-5A-02276

Dear Chief Day,

I am in receipt of your March 27, 2018 letter and the enclosures, wherein you returned Mr. Kelerchian's application for federal firearms relief.

As you should be aware and as I explained in my original letter of March 02, 2018, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) and 27 C.F.R. § 478.144(i), as Mr. Kelerchian is an FFL holder, who has continually and timely renewed his FFL, provided he files an application for federal firearms relief, he shall not be "barred by such disability from further operations under his license **pending final action** on an application for relief filed pursuant to this section." Although I am acutely aware that since 1992 the Congress has precluded ATF from conducting federal firearms relief determinations through the ATF's annual appropriation bill, in this situation, because Mr. Kelerchian is an FFL, ATF is required to retain the application and process it, when, if ever, the Congress appropriates money for ATF to conduct federal firearms relief determinations. It is for that reason that I am returning Mr. Kelerchian's entire application packet to you.

I also note in passing that you and other employees of ATF would seemingly be barred from issuing letters such as your March 27, 2018 letter and returning applications, as the language in the annual appropriation bill, as has existed since 1992, provides, in pertinent part, that "none of the funds appropriated herein shall be available to investigate or act upon an application for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under Section 925(c)." As all employees of ATF are paid through the annual appropriations bill and you are taking action by returning an application, including incurring printing, mailing and other costs, such action would seemingly be in violation of the

Case 2:20-cv-00253-WB Document 31-1 Filed 08/03/22 Page 159 of 168 Congressional mandate.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanking you for your time and assistance in this matter, I am

Respectfully Yours, Prince Law Offices, P.C.

Joshua Prince

joshua@princelaw.com Extension: 81114

jp/web Matter no. 37012

Enclosure

Exhibit J

PS Form 3811, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

	1-9
SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul> <li>Complete items 1, 2, and 3. 37013</li> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.</li> <li>Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.</li> </ul>	A. Signature    Agent   Address   B. Received by (Printed Name)   C. Date of Delive
Chief John R. Day U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol. Tobacco. Firearms and Explosives Attention Bureau of Alcohol. Tobacco. Firearms and Explose - Relief of Disabilities Section Corporal Road. Building 3750. Redstone Arsenal Huntsville. AL 35898	enter delivery address below. No
THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O	3. Service Type
2 Article Number (Transfer from service label) 7016 0910 0000 6749 188	Mail Signature Confirmation

# Exhibit K

From: DeBruicker, Lauren (USAPAE) Lauren.DeBruicker@usdoj.gov

Subject: Kelerchian v. US: Response to proposals regarding Mr. Kelerchian's firearms

Date: June 15, 2020 at 4:36 PM

To: Joshua Prince joshua@princelaw.com
Cc: Adam Kraut akraut@princelaw.com

LD

#### Dear Joshua,

ATF has considered your proposals in your email of June 9, and responds as follows:

#### 1. Post-1986 machineguns:

- In light of the Supreme Court's denial of Mr. Kelerchian's petition for certiorari on June 1, Mr. Kelerchian should transfer his post-86 machineguns to another Federal Firearms Licensee ("FFL") before July 1. He need not transfer other firearms at this time.
- b. If Mr. Kelerchian transfers his post-1986 machineguns to a qualified importer or manufacturer by July 1, no LE letter would be necessary. A letter would only be required if he transfers these machineguns to a dealer. 27 C.F.R. § 479.105(f).
- c. ATF understands that Mr. Kelerchian may seek to transfer these machineguns to another FFL pursuant to an arrangement whereby the transferee FFL would transfer the machineguns back to Mr. Kelerchian if the current civil action concludes in Mr. Kelerchian's favor. In the event that the litigation concludes with a final judgment in Mr. Kelerchian's favor (following any appeals), ATF would waive the demonstration letter requirement with respect to the transfer of these machineguns from the transferee FFL back to Mr. Kelerchian.
- d. As long as the applicable transfer forms for these machineguns are submitted to ATF by July 1, 2020, there would be no violation of the law. ATF will work with you to expedite the processing of forms submitted to ATF by July 1, 2020.

#### 2. National Firearms Act firearms:

- a. Other than the post-86 machineguns, Mr. Kelerchian's firearms can continue to be stored securely in the Kelerchians' warehouse.
- b. In light of Mr. Kelerchian's prohibited status, ATF recognizes that in order to effectuate a transfer of NFA firearms after July 1, Mrs. Kelerchian may have to possess them incidentally in the course of transferring them. As this would be a matter of practical necessity, ATF is not going to consider such limited possession a violation of 26 U.S.C. § 5861(d) under the circumstances.

#### 3. <u>Transfers of firearms, generally</u>

a. Please see the attached guidance on how to dispose of remaining business inventory in a manner which does not constitute engaging in business without a license. While this guidance generally speaks to instances in which licenses have been revoked, ATF will apply these standards in considering any disposition of Mr. Kelerchian's firearms.

It is my understanding that the above addresses and should resolve the issues you raised below. If you believe otherwise, please let me know – I would be happy to discuss any remaining issues or differences and to see if we are able to resolve them.

Many thanks,

Lauren

Lauren DeBruicker 215.861.8492 | Lauren.DeBruicker@usdoj.gov

From: Joshua Prince < joshua@princelaw.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 10:53 AM

To: DeBruicker, Lauren (USAPAE) < LDeBruicker@usa.doj.gov>

Cc: Adam Kraut <akraut@princelaw.com>

Subject: Re: Kelerchian v. US: Rule 26(f) Joint Report w USAO revisions 06.05.2020.docx

Hi Lauren,

It was a pleasure speaking with you this morning regarding my clients concerns relative to the denial of certiorari and ATF's position that his license will automatically be void within 30 days of the denial of cert (i.e. July 1, 2020). As you know, while we disagree with ATF's contention and are prepared to file a motion with the court if necessary, it is my hope that we can come to an agreement that is palatable by all the parties. As we discussed, the issues as I see them are:

1. Whether ATF is only going to require all post-86 machineguns to be transferred by July 1, 2020 or whether ATF contends that all post-86 and pre-86 (i.e. imported between 68 and 86) must be transferred by July 1, 2020. I would assume, consistent with 27 CFR 479.105(f), ATF will NOT require the receiving FFL to produce a demonstration letter. Further, as we discussed, if my client is to transfer post and/or pre 86 guns to another FFL for holding, we would require the agreement between the parties to explicitly provide that in the event a final determination is rendered in Mr. Kelerchian's favor, those machineguns will be transferred back to his license without requirement of a PD/Mil demonstration letter as generally required by 27 CFR 478.105(d). ATF has the authority to waive the requirement, pursuant to 27 CFR 479.26.

A related sub-issue is the timing it takes to find a buyer or FFL willing to hold the firearm, the ATF approval of the forms, and transfer (i.e. shipment) of those weapons. I would assume ATF would agree to expedite any such applications and that as long as the applicable transfer forms are submitted to ATF (not necessarily approved) by July 1, 2020, there would be no violation of the law in this situation.

2. Whether ATF agrees that Mrs. Kelerchian can continue in possession of any National Firearms Act weapons, registered to Mr. Kelerchian, after July 1, 2020, provided that she will not permit him access to them.

3. Whether we can agree that any firearms currently held by Mr. Kelerchian, regardless of whether Gun Control Act or National Firearms Act firearms, can be sold on behalf of Mr. Kelerchian without such constituting him or those acting on his behalf to be engaged in the business of selling firearms without a license.

Please let me know, as soon as you can so that we can either prepare an agreement of the parties or prepare a motion to be filed with the court. Thanks!

#### Joshua

Joshua Prince, Esq. Prince Law Offices, P.C. 646 Lenape Rd Bechtelsville, PA 19505 888-313-0416 ext 81114 610-845-3903 (fax) Joshua@PrinceLaw.com

The highest compliment we can receive is the referral of your friends, family and business associates. Thank you for your trust

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On Jun 9, 2020, at 8:58 AM, DeBruicker, Lauren (USAPAE) < Lauren. DeBruicker@usdoj.gov > wrote:

Thanks, Joshua. Yes, 10 a.m. should work fine. You can reach me at 215.764.2231.

Lauren DeBruicker 215.861.8492 | <u>Lauren.DeBruicker@usdoj.gov</u>

From: Ioshua Prince <ioshua@nrincelaw.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 08, 2020 4:47 PM

To: DeBruicker, Lauren (USAPAE) < LDeBruicker@usa.doj.gov>

Cc: Adam Kraut <a href="mailto:kraut@princelaw.com">akraut@princelaw.com</a>>

Subject: Re: Kelerchian v. US: Rule 26(f) Joint Report w USAO revisions

06.05.2020.docx

Hi Lauren,

I've been in the mountains since Friday without any cell or internet coverage and am just getting back into covered territory. Would tomorrow morning at 10am work? Please let me know. Thanks!

Joshua

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Prince, Esq.
Prince Law Offices, P.C.
646 Lenape Rd
Bechtelsville, PA 19505
888-313-0416 ext 81114
610-845-3903 (fax)
Joshua@PrinceLaw.com

The highest compliment we can receive is the referral of your friends, family and business associates. Thank you for your trust

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#### Dear Joshua,

Just following up on this. I am available to speak this afternoon if you like; I am also available tomorrow until about 2:00 pm. (I do not mean to be a pest; I just recall you wanting to discuss your possible motion).

Thanks,

Lauren

Lauren DeBruicker 215.861.8492 | Lauren.DeBruicker@usdoj.gov

From: DeBruicker, Lauren (USAPAE) Sent: Friday, June 05, 2020 9:42 AM

To: Joshua Prince < joshua@princelaw.com>

**Subject:** Kelerchian v. US: Rule 26(f) Joint Report w USAO revisions

06.05.2020.docx

Dear Joshua,

Attached please find our proposed additions and revisions to the Rule 26(f) report. As you will see, I have added an introductory section up front to help frame the issues and inform the Court that we believe that her decision on the Motion to Dismiss will very likely dispose of the case in its entirety. We have done this in previous cases with Judge Beetlestone and have found it helpful.

We have also added some language that we think will help the Court to see that we are not ignoring her standard guidelines (including her strong stance that discovery begin immediately).

Let us know what you think.

As to the topic of the impact of the denial of Mr. Kelerchian's petition for certiorari, I think that may be best discussed by phone. I am generally available today if you have time to talk, and can be reached at 215.764.2231.

Thanks,

Lauren

<Rule 26(f) Joint Report w USAO revisions 06.05.2020.docx>



#### U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Washington, DC

www.atf.gov

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### Selling Firearms AFTER Revocation, Expiration, or Surrender of an FFL

Former Federal Firearms licensees (FFL's) who continue to sell firearms after the revocation, expiration, or surrender of their license are subject to the same rules as persons who have never been licensed in determining whether they are "engaged in the business" of selling firearms without a license in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(a)(1)(A). Accordingly, former licensees who wish to dispose of any remaining business inventory must adhere to the following guidance:

Business inventory must be disposed of by the former FFL in a manner that, objectively, does not constitute being engaged in the business of dealing in firearms using the same facts and circumstances test that would apply to persons who have never been licensed.

The preferred manner of disposition is for the former licensee to:

- Arrange for another FFL to purchase the business inventory (and other assets) of the business; or
- · Consign the inventory to another FFL to sell on consignment, or at auction.

Should a former FFL decide against those options, he/she should be aware that future sales – whether from his/her personal firearms collection or otherwise – will be evaluated for a potential violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(a)(1)(A), just as would occur with a person who had never been licensed.

If a former FFL is disposing of business inventory, the fact that no purchases are made after the date of license revocation, expiration, or surrender does not immunize him/her from potential violations of 18 U.S.C. § 922(a)(1)(A). Instead, business inventory acquired through repetitive purchases while licensed are attributed to the former FFL when evaluating whether subsequent sales constitute engaging in the business of dealing in firearms without a license.

ATF remains committed to assisting former licensees in complying with Federal firearms laws. If you have questions, please contact your local ATF office.

Andy R. Oraham

Deputy Assistant Director (Industry Operations)

Field Operations